Daily Report

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Further on Arab Cooperation Council Meetings

Iraq's Ramadan on Talks

JN1104164689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council, first deputy prime minister, and head of the Iraqi side to the Ministerial Council of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], has announced that all issues pertinent to the complementary structure of the ACC, its secretariat, and its financial and administrative laws have been completely discussed.

He told INA after the morning session of the ACC Ministerial Council that the council had completed more than 70 percent of the topics on the agenda.

He pointed out that President Saddam Husayn stressed during his reception of heads and members of the four delegations the importance of open discussion without sticking to the agenda so that common understanding and human relations can be expanded.

Ramadan added that one cause for optimism is the level of human relations among the leaders of the ACC.

INA has learned that today's topics of discussion included nomination of the ACC secretary general, agreement on coordinating security and intelligence activities among ACC countries, agreement on noninterference in internal affairs and nonuse of force or military intervention among ACC countries, the general structure of the basic law, and the proposed cadre and organizational structure of the General Secretariat.

Council Resumes Meetings

JN1104210989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)—The Ministerial Council of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] resumed its meetings at the Conferences Palace here tonight.

INA has learned that the council discussed two drafts, one on the movement and work of ACC citizens and the other on air transport. It also discussed the completion by the technical committees of the final drafts of the ACC's financial system and judicial agreement.

Al-Rifa'i Says Talks 'Brotherly'

JN1104211289 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] The Ministerial Commission of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] ended its third session in Baghdad today.

The prime minister, Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i, stressed that the delegates are seriously tackling the items listed on the agenda. Mr al-Rifa'i praised the brotherly atmosphere which prevailed over the commission's discussions and the delegates' determination to lay down the accurate rules governing the commission's functions and future plans.

During their meetings, delegates worked out the rules of the commission's action and the approved the accord on the ACC headquarters and means of concluding agreements and contracts among the council's four nations. They also completed discussion of the topics related to the organizational structure of the council and its secretariat as well as its financial and administrative regulations.

Fourth Session Concluded

JN1204112289 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0300 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] The meetings of the fourth session of the Ministerial Council of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] concluded late last night. The meetings lasted 3 hours.

In a statement following the session, Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, said that a final formula was approved for the plan for freedom of movement of ACC citizens and for cancelling entry visas and customs fees that are imposed on citizens and their vehicles in the Arab countries.

He added: A final formula was also approved for the judicial agreement, which constitutes an important base within the framework of coordination, integration, and unified legislations and laws for the four countries, particularly what is related to citizens' affairs in the ACC countries and for tackling the conditions and problems facing them.

The first deputy prime minister pointed out that the final formula of the clauses of the ACC agenda related to financial affairs was endorsed, in addition to endorsing another recommendation related to coordinating the moves and activities of the ACC states at Arab, regional, and international forums in a manner that would unify the method of movement toward the common objectives of the ACC states.

The ACC Ministerial Council will hold its final session this morning.

Palestinian Affairs

Khalaf: Shamir Proposals Will Not Deceive U.S.

JN1204123289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Manama, 12 Apr (WAKH)—Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, Abu Iyad, has reiterated the PLO's rejection of the proposals made by enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir during his visit to Washington.

In a telephone statement to WAKH, the Palestinian official said that Shamir's proposals are old, and that through these proposals, Shamir wanted to absorb the change in the U.S. street against Israel's policy by using expressions that he believed would dazzle the Americans and the world. He said Shamir's use of words about elections and dialogue could not change his state's terrorist image.

He pointed out that the United States, which opened dialogue with the PLO, knows more than any other side the Israeli rulers' positions and policy, and consequently, will not be deceived by what he has presented to them, because they know that what he has proposed will not help reach a solution to the Middle East crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Salah Khalaf expressed the hope that the United States will adopt more effective stands to pressure Israeli to stop its continued terrorism against Arab citizens in the occupied territories. He described the positions declared by U.S. officials, foremost of which are President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker, as including a big change on the crux of the crisis.

Abu Iyad said that the international conference is the only suitable place for discussing the Palestine question and reaching a solution to it through the participation of the UN Security Council five permanent member states and under the auspices of the United Nations.

'Abd Rabbuh: Israeli Proposal 'Rotten Fish'

LD1104114189 Kuwait KUNA in English 0950 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Kuwait, April 11 (KUNA)—A senior PLO official Tuesday likened Israel's proposal of elections for Arabs in the occupied territories to a "rotten fish" and accused the United States of foot-dragging on a Mideast settlement.

The proposed elections, which won the favor of the U.S., are too open a ploy that has been already rejected by Palestinians inside the occupied areas and elsewhere, said PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh in an interview published in Kuwaiti daily AL-ANBA'.

The elections, he added, were designed to derail the intifadah [uprising] and buy time for Israel to break the determination of Palestinians under occupation.

'Abd Rabbuh, who leads the PLO team to the dialogue with the U.S., meanwhile, criticized Washington for "talking ambiguously" about political rights of Palestinians and for vaguely supporting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's election plan.

In his own words: "The U.S., thus far, is not looking for entrances to a solution of the (Mideast) crisis. Rather it's trying to freeze it as long as it can. And this is the purport of American talk about confidence-building measures and appropriate atmosphere and such other terms."

'Abd Rabbuh, who was interviewed in Tunis, was referring to U.S. President George Bush's remarks earlier this year about the need for creating the appropriate measures for Mideast peace talks and confidence building measures.

He said a third round of the U.S.-PLO dialogue was likely to be held within weeks but again indicated that the U.S. was stalling about throwing its weight behind peace efforts.

"We don't envisage the dialogue to continue for ever," he said and stressed that the PLO had viewed the talks as conducive to peace negotiations under the umbrella of an international peace conference.

Responding to a query, 'Abd Rabbuh said the PLO had gone the farthest it could in its dialogue with the United States and made its position clear beyond doubt on the need for peace negotiations in an international conference.

Further on 'Abd Rabbuh Remarks

JN1104165289 Manama WAKH in English 1610 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 11 (GNA)—A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official was quoted today as saying Israel's proposals for elections in the occupied territories were mere maneuvers aimed at courting the Western public opinion.

Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh told the Dubayy-based AL-BAYAN such proposals, presented by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in Washington last week, would not lead to any progress in the Middle East peace.

"Shamir's proposals for elections are the same old ideas but in a new cover. They are not more than maneuvers aimed at courting the American and European public opinion by presenting schemes with fake democratic nature," he said in the interview in Tunis.

Rabbuh, who led the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue with Washington, said the talks would resume within weeks.

"But we do not see such a dialogue going on forever. We view our dialogue with the U.S as part of preparations for holding an international conference," he said.

'Arafat To Visit Cairo En Route to Jordan

NC1104151089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—The MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY [MENA] has learned that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat is expected to make a lightning visit to Cairo in the next 48 hours to meet with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak before the two leaders leave for Jordan to hold an Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian summit.

Palestinian sources in Cairo have stated that this tripartite summit comes within the framework of intensive consultations to coordinate the three leaders' stands. It will also be the second tripartite summit in 2 weeks. The first summit was held in Ismailia on 25 March before President Mubarak left for Washington for talks with U.S. President George Bush and his top aides.

Unified National Leadership Issues Call No 38

JN1104193189 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Apr 89

["Call No 38" issued by the PLO, "the Unified National Leadership in the Occupied Homeland—PLO"; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Call, call, call. No voice can rise above the voice of the intifadah [uprising]. No voice can rise above the voice of the people of Palestine, the people of the PLO. Call of martyr Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad. Call No 38.

O masses of our heroic Palestinian people, O brothers and comrades of the symbolic leader Abu Jihad, O heroes of the stones and Molotov, O protectors of the independent Palestinian state, O makers of the national decision to continue your intifadah until you achieve victory and expel the occupiers from the land of our independent Palestinian state, O men who pledged to continue the march and struggle on the path of Al-Wazir and all martyrs:

These days mark the 1st anniversary of the martyrdom of the heroic military commander and Palestinian militant symbol, brother Abu Jihad, who gave his life for the sake of the people and revolution—Abu Jihad, who was reached by organized Zionist terrorism.

We commemorate this anniversary while you are escalating your intifadah struggle through all legitimate methods, affirming to Shamir and the staff of his fascist government that assassinating Palestinian symbols will not stop the intifadah. Let Shamir's fascist clique know that its objective of assassinating our national symbols will not be achieved. The march of the intifadah will escalate regardless of sacrifices.

Our path is long and has been baptized by the blood of our martyrs, who have illuminated the path of our generations to march on the path of the revolution and its national symbols, continuing the struggle and sacrificing everything until victory is achieved through repatriation, self-determination, and until our independent Palestinian state, with its capital Jerusalem, is crowned on the national soil under the leadership of our sole legitimate representative, the PLO. Let us turn this anniversary into an occasion of givings, sacrifices, and heroism.

O masses of the independent Palestinian state: The Unified National Leadership [UNL] and the masses of our Palestinian people support and highly praise the decisions adopted by the PLO Central Council to elect the brother leader, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine and brother Faruq Qaddumi foreign minister and to consecrate the declaration of independence. We underline the decisions adopted by the Central Council with regard to the practical steps to escalate and develop the giant intifadah.

Your intifadah will not achieve its objectives without this escalation and development. And your creative intiatives can implement these decisions.

These Palestinian achievements crown the continuous achievements of the intifadah and the PLO struggle on the Arab and international levels. Our people's sacrifices and struggle resulted in world recognition of the Palestine question by upgrading the Palestinian representation, Canada's commencement of dialogue with the PLO, and France's intention to receive brother Abu 'Ammar, president of the State of Palestine.

On the other hand, we call on the United States to truly move toward recognizing the State of Palestine and our people's legitimate rights to repatriation, self-determination, and embodiment of the Palestinian state on national soil. We also call on the United States to mark the dialogue with the PLO with seriousness and avoid procrastination.

These Palestinian achievements are a slap in the face of the leader of Nazism and the staff of his fascist government that has always worked to create liquidatory plans to bypass our people's rights, beginning with the autonomy plan, the village league, the canton solutions, the Jordanian option, and the Rabin plan, and ending with Shamir's failing attempts to find an alternative leadership to the PLO by holding elections under occupation. This plan does not differ in essence from the Camp David plan that was rejected by our masses through their struggle and sacrifices.

While announcing their categorical rejection of Shamir's plan, which calls for holding elections under occupation with the aim of crushing the intifadah and casting doubts on the soleness of the objectives of the struggle being waged by our people wherever they reside, the UNL and

the masses of our people affirm that there is no option other than the Palestinian one, that there is no alternative to the PLO, and that there will be no solutions except those achievable through a fully empowered international conference—a conference that will secure for our people their legitimate rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on our national soil under the PLO.

The UNL stresses the need to rectify Syrian-Palestinian ties on the basis of equality, independent Palestinian decisionmaking, and rejection of imperialist and Zionist schemes. Moreover, we call for a cessation of the bloodshed in Lebanon, which serves no party other than the enemies of our Arab people. This war, which has been ignited by Zionism and its allies, affects in one way or another the intifadah being waged by our Palestinian people.

We also call upon the Arab masses to stage tumultous marches in a show of solidarity with the intifadah being staged by the sons of their people in Palestine, so that they will be exercising their most basic democratic and human rights. We also call upon the Arab regimes to upgrade their methods of supporting the Palestine question through opening their borders to the fighters of the Palestinian revolution so that they can exercise their legitimate struggle rights using all the means considered legitimate according to the fourth Geneva convention.

O you, heroes of our great people held in the Zionist extermination jails and detention centers, you who are illuminating with your agonies our path and providing us with further determination and resolve to drive away the occupiers and achieve national independence; O you who are determined to confront the enemy while being held in the jails of neofascism, confronting with your chests, intestines, and heroic will the Zionist repression machine:

We send you a thousand greetings on your day, the day of the Palestinian prisoner. We pledge that we will continue the struggle for the sake of realizing the objectives that you are suffering to attain.

O you masses of the giant intifadah; O you brothers and comrades of the leader and symbol Abu Jihad; O you heroes of Nabulus, Gaza, Jabalyah, al-Am'ari, Janin, Nur Shams, and all areas in Palestine: Continue to make sacrifices, to give, and to confront. Let the Palestinian land and flag be your mottos.

Let Shamir and the pillars of his government hear through your stones and firebombs the voice of your intifadah and revolution. Make him understand that the struggling hands that have terrified his regular army will also terrify the herds of border police.

While our people are affirming their ability to defeat these herds, we appeal to our brothers the Druze and their nationalist vanguards not to allow Rabin to wage this battle using the blood of your sect. Assigning this dirty mission to your sons is a new method to divest you of your capabilities.

On the occasion of the advent of the blessed month of Ramadan, the month of sacrifices, patience, challenge, and jihad, the UNL once again greets and congratulates the masses of our Palestinian people and the peoples of the Islamic world on the advent of this month and affirms the determination and resolve of our people's masses to escalate the struggle during this month, to consider all days of this month days for confronting the occupation troops, and to fill the nights of Ramadan with further militant nighttime activities.

On this occasion, the UNL calls on all stores and industrial areas to open their businesses until 1300 throughout the days of this holy month. The UNL, through the glorious intifadah's march and its entering its 17th month, salutes the masses of our people on their heroic stands of confrontation and defiance. It affirms the following struggle issues:

1. The UNL, on the occasion of the start of the blessed month of Ramadan, reminds the masses of our people of the necessity of working on familial and social integration, respecting the sacredness of the month of Ramadan, not squandering but economizing on expenses. It calls on the masses of businessmen not to exploit and to adhere to prices.

2. The UNL salutes the stand of our gallant businessmen who implemented its decision to boycott Zionist products, rid their stores of them, and confirm the national stand. It calls for forming cooperative societies to manufacture alternatives to these goods, such as workshops for sewing, canning vegetables and fruits, and others. We ask our masses in the territories occupied in 1948 to buy Palestinian national products for their needs. The UNL highly appreciates the efforts of the strike forces and the popular committees in following up the boycott and observing prices.

3. The UNL calls on the strike forces and popular committees to remove signs written in Hebrew from all shops and other places in all areas of our independent state.

4. The UNL calls on the strike forces to take measures against those who did not resign from the organs of the Civil Administration in accordance with the UNL's former calls.

5. The UNL salutes the stand of the accountants who adhered to the Unified National Leadership's decisions to close their offices and not deal at all with tax statements. It calls on those who did not adhere to adhere to the national decisions. It also appeals to the owners of

the national industrial institutions without exception not to present tax statements and not to submit them inside or outside the occupied areas [sentence as heard].

The Unified National Leadership asks the owners of national factories to deal with the requests of the unified workers committees and their workshops to reorganize production and fix prices, wages, and workers' and social rights. It warns against capitalizing on the people's urgent needs.

6. The UNL affirms its previous stand not to go on strike if a struggler is martyred. The response to that is escalation and violence. The UNL also affirms the importance of not responding to the military rule's summons. These summons aim only to split our national ranks and decorate the face of the occupation.

7. The UNL greets the Bayt Jala masses who are confronting the [words indistinct], which threaten to confiscate vast areas of land in Bayt Jala and Al-Khidr and deprive some inhabitants of their livelihood in addition to demolishing houses. The UNL calls on the appointed council to resign immediately, withdraw its plan, and suspend their [as heard] conspiracies against the sons of their people.

8. The UNL announces the start of summer time in the State of Palestine. Clocks will be put forward 1 hour as of the night of 15 April 1989. Summer time will last until [words indistinct]. The UNL calls on all shops and establishments to abide by this summer time in the State of Palestine.

9. The UNL emphasizes the importance of popular education and tutoring at home through the provision of working papers by the educational institutions to be done by our students at home. The UNL also calls on academicians and intellectuals to prepare theoretical and applied lessons in all walks of the intifadah life. This is so because the feats of our people deserve to be studied, put on record, and assessed. History will not forgive those who do not give it its due.

From this premise, the UNL sincerely wishes that the higher education council avoid red tape when making decisions. It must safeguard its democractic character and assume its role as a responsible body in the occupied territories.

The UNL calls on the council's departments to assume their national and actual role with respect to the education process. The UNL also calls on the higher education council to deal with the students and those working in its responsible and elected departments in a sound national manner.

10. The UNL calls on those who work in the education and health sectors not to sign the document that is being distributed by the officer of the government body affiliated to the enemy's ministry, and in which he calls for a commitment not to bring in their private funds from outside the occupied homeland.

Through our people's great role of commitment and abiding by the implementation of their militant activities, the UNL calls on our masses to carry out the following activities:

1. Thursday, 13 April: A day for activities and escalation on the anniversary of the martyrdom of struggler Ibrahim al-Ra'i in the detention camps of the Zionist enemy.

2. Friday, 14 April: A day for prayers for the souls of the martyrs of the intifadah, and the martyrs of the Palestinian revolution. The prayers will be interspersed by demonstrations [word indistinct] after the prayers for the souls of the martyrs.

3. Saturday, 15 April: A day for the Palestinian national anthem. During this day, the Palestinian masses in and outside the occupied homeland will chant the national anthem "Biladi, Biladi" on Saturday evening.

4. Sunday, 16 April: A day of a tumultuous popular wrath on the 1st anniversary of the martyrdom of the leader and symbol Abu Jihad, who fell on Tunisian territory at the hands of treacherous, organized Zionist terrorism.

On this day, all the sectors of our people will carry out confrontation with all means to avenge the souls of our martyrs. Palestinian flags will be hoisted, and pictures of the martyr Abu Jihad will be carried.

5. Monday, 17 April, the day of the Palestinian captive, the UNL salutes strugglers in the Zionist detention camps and calls on them to perform united actions and consecrate national unity.

On this day, institutions and organizations along with the masses of our people shall stage sit-ins in front of the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross. They shall also visit families of detainees and send protest cables to international organizations demanding closure of the Nazi detention camps.

6. Tuesday, 18 April will be a day of comprehensive strike in protest of the confiscation by the occupation army of citizens' cars and their use in raids and detentions.

7. Wednesday, 19 April, will be the day of the Palestinian Molotov cocktail. The strike force will attack the herds of settlers, border guards, and army with fire bottles.

8. Thursday, 20 April, will be the day of national unity. On this day, the composition of popular committees and UNL arms will be completed in all areas.

9. Saturday, 22 April, shall be a day of comprehensive strike during which the masses plant the land. On this occasion, the UNL appeals to the owners of nurseries to donate and reduce the price of transplanted trees.

10. The days 23 and 25 April will be observed by activities of all methods to confuse the enemy and paralyze its movement.

11. Wednesday, 26 April, shall be the day on which agents are taken to account. The strike force and UNL arms will use all methods to punish agents and all those who departed from the national ranks for their collaboration with the occupation authorities.

12. Thursday, 27 April, shall be a day of comprehensive strike in memorial of the intifadah martyrs. After the afternoon prayers of that day, our masses shall visit the graves of the intifadah martyrs to lay wreaths and Palestinian flags.

13. The days 28 and 29 April will be observed by national activities.

Long live the independent State of Palestine; long live Palestinian national unity and the unity of our detainees in Zionist prisons; long live the PLO as sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people wherever they exist.

[Signed] The Unified National Leadership in the Occupied Homeland—PLO

Egypt

Further Reportage on Al-Fayyum Riots

35 Set for Release

JN1204124889 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 10 Apr 89 pp 1, 2

[By Ahmad al-Jubayli]

[Text] Usamah Qandil, Al-Fayyum Public Prosecutor's office director, has decided to release 35 defendants accused of involvement in the Al-Fayyum riots last Friday. The prosecution also decided to detain Dr 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman and nine of his followers for 15 days pending investigation. Mahmud al-Shirshabi, the legal counsellor for the Al-Fayyum's public prosecutor's office decided to summon Brigadier General 'Adil al-Nahhas, director of the Criminal Investigation Department, to question him on the methods employed to apprehend the defendents.

He also ordered the summoning of a doctor from the forensic department to sign the medical examination papers of Dr 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman, leader of Al-Jihad Organization, and Salamah Mu'awwad Ahmad, 'Ali Muhammad Sayyid, Al-Husayni 'Ali 'Uthman, Ramadan Salih, 'Ali al-Tuni Hasanayn, 'Asim Harun, Nadi Sayyid 'Abdallah, and Anwar Dissuqi 'Abd al-Qawi to establish the extent and cause of their injuries.

Investigations by Al-Fayyum public prosectors revealed that during the curfew, the criminal investigation officers arrested a large number of people who were later proved to be uninvolved in the riots and that one of those arrested is paralyzed. Investigations also revealed the existence of a new religious group called Al-Ghuraba' [the Strangers]. An order was issued for the arrest of its leader Ahmad al-Khuli, who is a student at the Cairo University arts college.

During the interrogations, Dr 'Abd al-Rahman denied having instigated the assassination of Colonel Muhammad Sayf al-Islam, as alleged in the investigation report.

The prosecution ordered the immediate arrest of 19 other defendents and the examination of 12 others to determine their real age.

The prosecution continues its interrogation of the other defendants under the supervision of Counsellor Mahmud al-Shirbashi, of the Al-Fayyum prosecutor's office, who is assisted by Usamah Qandil, the director of the public prosecutor's office in al-Fayyum; and Mamduh Budayr, 'Abd al-Rahman Marzuq, and Hisham Anwar, public prosecutors. Yahya 'Abd al-Rahman will be the team's secretary.

The police occupied Al-Shuhada' Mosque in Al-Fayyum and prevented the Islamic Jihad members from entering it. The police also launched a large-scale arrest campaign in the villages of Al-Fayyum and Hayy Al-Ramad. Lawyer 'Adil al-Laymuni submitted a petition to the Al-Fayyum public prosecution lawyer to transfer Dr 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman to Al-Fayyum Hospital for health reasons. Public Prosecutor Mamduh Budayr decided to refer him to the health inspector to determine his condition.

16 Ordered Arrested

JN1104211589 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 10 Apr 89 p 1-2

[By Muhammad al-Ful from Al-Fayyum]

[Text] Interior Minister Zaki Badr issued a decision to arrest 16 defendents who were held in the lastest incidents in Al-Fayyum governorate.

Those accused are: Al-Sayyid 'Abd al-'Aziz, Ayman Muhammad, Al-Sayyid al-Badawi, Rajab Mahmud, Mustafa Sha'ban, 'Ali al-Sayyid, Ahmad Fu'ad, 'Adil 'Uways, Muhammad Hasan, Ahmad Faysal, Manjud Hasan, 'Asim Imam, Hasan 'Abd al-Tawab, Tal'at Khalid, Hasan Ramadan, and Mahrus Huraydi.

The public prosecution of Al-Fayyum headed by Usamah Qandil had ordered their release, in addition to releasing 15 other defendents in the incidents.

The public prosecution accused Dr 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman and 10 other members of his group of assembling, opposing the authorities, and exploiting religion to propagate ideas with the intention of creating sedition, obtaining fire arms, and proceeding to kill Colonel Muhammad Sayf al-Islam, commander of Al-Fayyum district capital.

Prosecution deputies Mamduh Budayr and Husam Anwar are continuing to interrogate seven other defendents, who were arrested after they had succeeded in running away after the last incidents.

Warning Issued on Al-Rahman

LD1204134989 Tehran IRNA in English 1300 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Athens April 12, IRNA—The Islamic Movement of Egypt Monday [10 April] distributed a statement nationwide warning of severe consequences due to the arrest of an Islamic leader, Dr 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman.

It also warned that he should not be harmed, and stressed that Islamic groups were ready to face any attacks against them by force.

The mufti of Al-Jihad organisation, Dr. 'Abd al-Rahman, was arrested along with a large number of Muslims in the city of Al-Fayyum last Friday following clashes which broke out when security forces entered a mosque to arrest him while he was giving the sermon. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Leaves for Talks With Jordan's Husayn

NC1204151489 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left for Jordan's capital, Amman, this afternoon for talks with Jordan's King Husayn.

He was seen off by the speakers of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council, the deputy prime ministers, and a number of ministers.

President Mubarak said that his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn falls within the context of their constant coordination on various issues, particularly the Palestinian issue, bilateral relations, and also relations with various Arab countries.

Seizure of Israeli Boat, 4 Passengers Reported

JN1104205789 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 10 Apr 89 p 2

[Text] Tel Aviv—News Agencies—Israel announced that Egypt seized an Israeli boat and four passengers aboard it, holding them for several hours after the boat illegally entered Egyptian territorial waters. An Egyptian Coast Guard patrol seized the boat, which had entered 100 meters into Egyptian territorial waters. The boat was towed to a Coast Guard center on Al-Murjan Island, where the passengers, two men and two women, were interrogated. Later, they were released.

Sources on U.S. Approval of Shamir Plan

NC1204095789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1523 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Washington, 11 Apr (MENA)—Informed diplomatic sources in Washington have stated that the administration of President George Bush has consented to Shamir's plan on holding elections in the occupied Arab territories, although it knew very well that the chances for this plan's success are almost nil. The same sources noted that, with this consent, the U.S. Administration wanted to give Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir adequate opportunity and ample time to realize for himself how futile his proposals—which he formulated in a plan—are and that it will be impossible for him to implement then. By doing so, the sources added, the U.S. Administration was expressing the general Arab view of Shamir's proposals.

The sources voiced their belief that the U.S. Administration, which is scheduled to hold another round of talks on the Middle East when Jordan's King Husayn visits the U.S. capital next week, will continue to closely watch the situation for some time, especially the conditions in the occupied Arab territories and the way the Israeli authorities are dealing with these conditions. [passage omitted]

Baker Remarks on Palestinian State Criticized

NC1204053989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR criticized U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's recent statements to the effect that his government does not support the establishment of a Palestinian state. In tomorrow's edition, the paper says that this puzzling stand is a precondition that Washington is setting for any talks between the PLO and Israel.

This position, the paper says, undermines the negotiations before they begin and casts shadows of doubt on Washington's seriousness concerning the restoration of peace to the Middle East. Washington must certainly be aware that there will be no true and lasting peace in the region until the Palestinian people are allowed, like any other nation, to exercise their right to self-determination and to have an independent state of their own in accordance with the UN resolution on the partitioning of Palestine, a resolution that the United States has supported and defended in the past.

AL-AKHBAR added that this recent U.S. position on the Palestinian issue embodies certain inconsistencies and raises puzzling questions about incomprehensible and illogical matters.

The paper recalls the optimism created by the decision made in the last weeks of President Ronald Reagan's term to open a dialogue with the PLO. This optimism, the paper says, was reinforced by statements made by U.S. officials about the recognition of the political rights of the Palestinian people and the rejection of continued Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories. AL-AKHBAR says that this optimism has been dealt a blow by Baker's recent statements. As matters stand now, the paper concludes, it is not hard to predict the failure of any negotiations and even the failure of the Middle East peace process itself.

'Strange Israeli Proposal' for Elections Viewed

NC1104205489 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1840 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb commentary from the "Talking Newspaper" program]

[Text] Yitzhaq Shamir is using all the means at his disposal to try to contain the Palestinian peace onslaught, employing tricks and maneuvers that he thinks will confuse world public opinion and swing it away from the distinguished Palestinian stand. Shamir has realized that large sectors in Europe and the United States and even within Israel now support the PLO's position and new approach in settling the Arab-Israeli conflict. These sectors are convinced that the Palestinians are serious in their quest for peace and that their demands are just because the land is theirs and they ask

for no more than the withdrawal of the Israeli forces and the recognition of their right to self-determination. In return, they acknowledge Israel's right to exist as one of the states in the region.

This Palestinian position not only stems from a genuine desire for peace but is also supported by a popular intifadah [uprising], which imposed itself on the Israeli occupation authorities after they failed to check it, despite all their oppressive methods. Thus, through their struggle and their politics, the Palestinians have won overwhelming world support, placing Shamir and his government in an unenviable position. From this emerged Shamir's idea of holding elections in the occupied territories before a phase of negotiations with representatives of the occupied territories' residents, as if he wants to drive a wedge between the inhabitants of the territories, the sons of the intifadah, and the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. However, this ploy was not clever enough and was rejected by Palestinians everywhere.

In spite of this, Shamir continues to pull tricks out of his bag, for he has not yet reached the point of despair on the issue of holding elections in the occupied territories. He introduced something new and wondrous—his call that Israel establish its authority on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and that the Arabs do the same. Then negotiations will take place until a solution acceptable to both parties has been reached.

Shamir's proposal is truly most wondrous. He seeks to obtain an Arab authorization that would allow Israel to declare its sovereignty over the West Bank and Gaza Strip, after which the Arabs would negotiate with it for a reasonable solution. But what is the reasonable solution that Israel might accept? If Israel has failed for 20 years to impose its authority on the Arab territories by virtue of the Palestinian people's struggle, is it logical for the Arabs today and after the proclamation of a Palestinian state to voluntarily accept the imposition of Israeli authority on the occupied territories and then negotiate over their right to exist? This strange Israeli proposal confirms to us that Shamir is not serious in his proposals and that he is attempting to gain time in the hope of reaching a single goal—the crushing of the intifadah. However, we do not believe that he can do this, not politically and not militarily.

Israel's 'Tactics To Avoid' Peace Viewed

JN1204101689 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 10 Apr 89 p 6

[Editorial: "Endless Maneuverings to Hamper Peace"]

[Text] Like a drowning man who clings to a straw that may save him from his inevitable fate, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is trying to find an excuse to escape the trap of peace.

Shamir's tactics to avoid any talk about peace depend on creating false reasons aimed to distract attention from the cause of peace in the Middle East and from solving the Palestinian problem. To begin with, he spread rumors that Egypt had decided to produce chemical weapons. Then he said that Egypt was ready, along with other Arab countries, to produce atomic bombs. These maneuverings, whose falsehood was quickly exposed by the world, have failed. He also tried to exploit reports that the Soviet Union would sell Libya long-range Soviet fighter bombers. By this, he wanted to instigate the world against the Arabs because the new bombers can reach Israel.

It seems that the Israeli prime minister believes that the world public opinion has a weak memory or has no memory at all, because he forgot what the Israeli planes did during their aggression against Tunisia. He also forgot Israel's assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] after it failed to assassinate Yasir 'Arafat, and its violations of Iraqi air space some years ago to destroy a nuclear reactor established for peaceful purposes.

Although Israel always obtains the newest weapons produced by the U.S. weapon and aircraft factories, we did not hear any condemnation of the Tel Aviv government for using these weapons in its aggressions against the Arab countries, the near and far alike. But if an Arab country obtains weapons that may threaten Israel's territories, the Tel Aviv leaders cause an uproar over it even if these weapons are not actually used.

The world public opinion has become experienced in Israel's maneuverings and its attempts to foil any effort to settle the Middle East dispute to enable the region's countries to coexist in peace and security. However, Israel's games will end some day and it will be forced to return to negotiations at a UN-sponsored international conference, the only way to peace.

Ethiopia Reportedly Buys Arms From Israel

PM2903152589 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Mar 89 p 1

[Mahmud Bakri report: "Israeli Arms Worth $1.4 Billion For Ethiopia"]

[Text] Diplomatic circles in Cairo have revealed information to the effect that Israel and Ethiopia recently reached an agreement under which two military deals to the value of $1.4 billion were concluded. The circles pointed out that the agreement on the deals was concluded in complete secrecy. The first deal totals $650 million, the second $750 million, and they include numerous advanced weapons. The circles also disclosed that Ethiopia could use such arms against some states in the region, but named none of those states. They just said that this development constitutes a direct threat and more dangers to the Horn of Africa region.

It is worth mentioning that a number of Sudanese officials stated recently that Israeli officials had met with some rebel forces in an area in South Sudan, near some positions in the Ethiopian-Sudanese border area.

'Sources' on Coming IMF Talks, Reform Plan

NC1104112889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—Informed economic sources have confirmed that during the coming round of talks between Egypt and the IMF, which is scheduled to be held in Cairo toward the end of April, the outline of a letter of intent submitted by the Egyptian Government on the economic and financial reform plans in the various sectors is expected to be endorsed. This will pave the way for concluding a new agreement between the two sides before midyear.

The same sources added that once an agreement is concluded the IMF Board of Directors will invite the creditor states to a meeting within the framework of the Paris Club to reschedule $4 billion in foreign debts owed by Egypt. These debts cover a period extending from 1 July 1988 up to the end of June 1989.

These sources referred to the successful round of talks that President Mubarak and his accompanying economic team held during his recent visit to Washington. These talks, the sources added, strengthened the Egyptian viewpoint on the economic reform steps and the need to introduce the reforms through a phased program, ensuring that the basic needs of low-income people will not be compromised.

These sources stated that the Egyptian economic reform plan, which Egyptian officials outlined during the Washington talks, met with considerable understanding on the part of officials in the U.S. Administration and the IMF, particularly so since it embodies an integrated program for economic reform at all levels.

The same sources noted that the Egyptian program includes radical reforms of the management of the public sector establishments, which represent a mainstay of the national economy. These reforms will underscore the need for economic considerations to take precedence in public enterprises and will give wide authority to the managers of these establishments to undertake the necessary expansions and improve the quality of the products. This will ensure that these enterprises' revenues are commensurate with the volume of funds invested in them.

The economic reform plan also includes important steps for promoting the private sector activities in the development process and for eliminating the impediments preventing it from playing the targeted role in the development plan, which gives 40 percent of its investments to the private sector. The economic plan also ensures the continuity of efforts to reduce the deficit in the state budget and seeks to increase state revenues from taxes and import duties without putting extra burdens on the production sectors. The plan also calls for lessening the dependency on banks for finance as well as introducing the necessary reforms in this respect.

It should be noted that Egypt signed bilateral agreements with 18 creditor countries for rescheduling part of its foreign debts to these countries that fell due between 1 January 1987 up to the end of June 1988. This was part of an agreement reached at the Paris Club in 1987.

Sidqi Leaves for Council Meeting in Baghdad

NC1004085189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi left Cairo for Baghdad this morning on a short visit to Iraq during which he will attend the meeting to begin there later today of government heads of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC].

Before leaving Cairo, Dr Sidqi said that he is carrying a message from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. He noted that today's meeting was agreed upon during the meeting of the leaders of the four ACC countries in February when the council was formed.

Dr Sidqi added that the current meeting will discuss the statutes and regulations governing the ACC's Supreme Council, made up of the leaders of the four states; the ministerial council, make up of the heads of government; and the ACC Secretariat. The discussions will be held in light of relevant proposals submitted by the ACC member states. [passage omitted]

Takes Message to Saddam

NC1004182389 Cairo MENA in English 1431 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, April 10 (MENA)—Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi said that he is carrying a personal message from President Husni Mubarak to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

In a statement to MENA following his arrival in Baghdad today, Dr Sidqi said that the message deals with the outcome of the contacts carried out by President Mubarak during his recent visit to the United States.

Information Minister on ACC Media Cooperation

JN1004102289 Baghdad INA in English 0915 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, Apr.10, INA—The Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that information ministers of Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) states would discuss in a first meeting they would hold preparation of a comprehensive strategy for information whose short-term and long-term aims would serve the Arab interest.

In a statement to IRAQI NEWS AGENCY in Cairo he added that information area comprises many fields of cooperation therefore it was necessary that contacts and deliberations should be intensified between different officials of the information media of the Council's states so that the image of joint action would be crystallized in service of the Arab goals and interests.

Mr. Safwat al-Sharif extolled the initiative of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY of transmitting a daily news bulletin on the ACC's states and said it was an important initiative and represented a major and advanced step on the path of implementing the information policies of the Council.

He also said that the ACC's states information ministers were blessing that step by the INA, confirming that transmission of the news bulletin, a product of cooperation between INA and the MIDDLE EAST AGENCY, would be extended to include the rest of the agencies of Jordan and Yemen Arab Republic.

On the other hand Mr. al-Sharif said that meetings of the Ministerial Commission scheduled to begin today in Baghdad with participation of the four heads of government of the four countries would have a special importance as it was considered the first one after signing the agreement on establishment of the Council and its ratification by the authorized institutions in Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and the Yemen Arab Republic.

He also clarified by saying that Baghdad conference due to be held today would define the way of future action, and the necessary suggestions to enrich its course that would be put into force.

The Egyptian minister said that out of their keenness on choosing the best scientific and practical style for action the four countries were now preparing working papers in different fields embodying the idea of the Cooperation Council and its aims. He added that were those papers approved, all the sectors, including information would proceed to carry out their duties for achieving aims of the Council in the way that serves the higher interest of the Arab nation as well as interests on the Council member states.

'Abd al-Majid, Algerian Ambassador on Cooperation

NC0804165589 Cairo MENA in English 1406 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, April 8 (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy premier and foreign minister, discussed today with the Algerian ambassador here Abdel Hamid Adjali bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

Following the meeting the ambassador hailed efforts exerted by President Husni Mubarak for the sake of the Palestinian cause and hoped that these efforts would be crowned with success.

The Algerian ambassador in Cairo condemned the recent proposals of Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir and described them as mere manoeuvres, he said.

On the date and venue of the coming Arab summit, the ambassador said contacts are underway in this respect.

The ambassador said cooperation between the Arab Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union needs further dialogue and coordination.

Ghali Meets With Ethiopian Envoy 10 Apr

NC1004192789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1431 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met today with Kasa Kabere [name as received], envoy of Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam. The Ethiopian envoy briefed Ghali on the latest developments in the Eritrean issue. He also briefed him on the Ethiopian Government's current consultations with the parties concerned in a bid to find a peaceful solution to this issue in a manner that will guarantee the rights of the various Ethiopian nationalities within the context of Ethiopia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Al-Razzaz Returns From Addis Ababa Meeting

NC1104175489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1448 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—Minister of Finance Dr Muhammad al-Razzaz returned to Cairo this afternoon from Addis Ababa, where he attended a day-long meeting of the UN African economic committee, yesterday.

In an arrival statement, he said he represented Egypt in this meeting in which the conferees discussed a number of economic issues concerning the African leaders as well as ways to develop the continent's economy and to speed up development. He stated that African ministers of planning, development, and finance participated in this meeting, which was preceded by a preparatory committee meeting. He disclosed that the UN African economic committee is expected to hold more meetings to discuss further economic studies and research.

YAR Agriculture Official Leaves Cairo for Home

NC0604214689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—Nasir 'Abdallah Salim, YAR minister of agriculture and fisheries [title as received], and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo for home this evening. During his stay in Cairo, the YAR minister held talks on ways to promote agricultural relations between the two countries with Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture.

USSR Foreign Ministry Official Departs

NC0804112389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1034 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Apr (MENA)—Sergey Sinitsyn, chief of the Nonaligned Movement Department at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, left Cairo this morning for home after a 4-day visit during which he held talks with Ambassador 'Amr Musa, head of the Organization Department at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

In a pre-departure statement, Sinitsyn said that his talks were conducted in the framework of existing agreements between the Egyptian and Soviet Governments. The two governments, he added, aim to enhance their bilateral ties, particularly following the remarkable progress that took place in this regard after Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Cairo.

Sinitsyn said that he exchanged views with Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials on the meeting of leaders of nonaligned countries slated to be held in Belgrade in September.

The Soviet official noted that the USSR supports the role of the Nonaligned Movement in tackling the issues of nuclear weapons and disarmament and in seeking to achieve world peace and security.

Soviet Foreign Ministry Official Pays Visit

NC1004213389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—Ambassador Arnold Kalinin, director of administration at the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs [title as received], arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a private visit of several days. He was met at the airport by Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev.

West German Parliamentary Delegation Arrives

NC1104062289 Cairo MENA in English 2250 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, April 10 (MENA)—A West German parliamentary delegation under the deputy speaker of the West German Bundestag (parliament) arrived here tonight for a week-long visit to Egypt.

Upon arrival, the deputy speaker of the Bundestag said this visit comes at the invitation of the People's Assembly in return for the visit of speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub to West Germany in 1986. He said the visit aims at strengthening the parliamentary relations between the People's Assembly and the West German parliament. The West German official said he had a chance to meet with President Husni Mubarak in Bonn, West Germany, during President Mubarak's last visit to West Germany and exchanged with him views on the Egyptian West German relations especially the situation in the Mideast.

3 Grant Agreements Signed With Japan

NC0504155789 Cairo MENA in English 1537 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, April 5 (MENA)—Egypt and Japan signed today three grant agreements whereby Egypt would obtain about 15.9 million dollars to finance three projects in the domains of housing, health, and nutrition.

The agreements were signed on Egypt's side by Umaymah 'Abd al-'Aziz, first undersecretary of the the Ministry of International Cooperation, while the Japanese ambassador to Egypt signed for his country.

Meanwhile, the grants offered to Egypt by Japan since 1977 and up till now amounted to 340.7 million dollars, 21 million dollars of which during the fiscal year 1988-89.

Crude Oil Prices Increased 1 April

NC3003111289 Cairo MENA in English 1057 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, March 30 (MENA)—Egypt decided to increase by 90 cents the price of its crude oil as of April 1.

The Egyptian oil-pricing committee convened today under head of the oil authority Dr. Hamdi al-Banabi to discuss the developments on the world oil market. The prices of the Egyptian oil as of April 1 will be as follows:
—Suez Gulf crude, $17.40 per barrel;
—Bala'im crude $16.55;
—Badran crude, $15.40;
—Gharib crude, $15.10.

Libya

JANA Editor on U.S. State Department Report

LD1204095189 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Tripoli, 12 Apr, JANA—The U.S. State Department yesterday issued a report on what it called terrorism in the Middle East, which talked about the alleged relation of the great Jamahiriyah with terrorism.

The JANA international affairs editor commented on these new claims of the U.S. State Department:

It seems, as we have repeatedly stressed, that U.S. quarters have a strange insistence on harming the reputation of the great Jamahiriyah in any form and on any occasion without any justification and without any scruples whatsoever. This insistence cannot be understood except within a single framework, which is the complete subjugation of these quarters to the Zionist influence in the United States. This influence is known, even to the United States itself, to be primarily against the interests of the American people themselves.

We say that this U.S. insistence on harming the great Jamahiriyah's reputation is very strange indeed, because the great Jamahiriyah has repeatedly condemned state terrorism and condemned the hijacking of aircraft and murdering of innocents.

However, there is no harm in repeating here again that subjugating U.S. quarters to Zionist pressure and repeating the false claims of the Mosad will in the end lead, whether in U.S. quarters this is understood or not, to the destruction of the interests of the American people and will harm the image of the U.S. Administration and people before international public opinion.

The JANA international affairs editor added: The report issued yesterday by the U.S. State Department, which was relayed by some Western media, includes numerous fallacies at the forefront of which is accusing the great Jamahiriyah of terrorism and supporting terrorist movements.

The JANA international affairs editor stressed that as we reject, as a whole and in every detail, the U.S. State Department's false, unfounded claims, we appeal to international public opinion and its democratic and humanitarian organization to confront such fabricated fallacies and lies.

We affirm that the great Jamahiriyah relies on theoretical and cultural values, the most significant of which is the great green document of human rights, which heralds the principled ideas and calls for setting the foundations for a civilization in which justice, harmony, peace, and understanding between nations would prevail.

The JANA international affairs editor went on to say that all of these practices and repeated false claims are but a coverup of the Zionist enemy's crimes in occupied Palestine, which are being committed daily against the sons of the Palestinian Arab people before the eyes and ears of U.S. officials for the 17th month running. We have heard no condemnation from these officials of the Zionists' crimes against the Palestinian Arab children, women, and elderly.

The editor added that wisdom calls for fair reasoning from the U.S. officials to confront and check the racist and colonialist manifestations, particularly in occupied Palestine and South Africa. Ignoring the unjust practices by these officials casts more doubt upon U.S. credibility in the world.

The JANA international affairs editor concluded his comment by saying that we are still hoping that the behavior patterns of former U.S. President Reagan will not be repeated as they had produced dire consequences for the U.S. people themselves.

Morocco

Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat Arrives

LD1104211489 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The president of the State of Palestine, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, arrived this evening in Morocco. He was welcomed at Rabat-Sale Airport by His royal highness the crown prince, Prince Sidi Mohamed. [passage omitted]

Mr 'Arafat is accompanied during his visit to our country by, Mr Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, member of the Executive Committee of the PLO , and Mr Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, official spokesman of the PLO.

Received by King Hassan

LD1204005589 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God protect him, flanked by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, received this evening at the royal court in Rabat Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

'Arafat was accompanied by Mr Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee; Mr Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, the PLO official spokesman; and Mr Abu Marwan, representative of the State of Palestine in Rabat. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Maghreb Issues

PM1104144689 Casablanca LE MATIN DU SAHARA in French 3 Apr 89 pp 1-2

[Reprint of interview granted by Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali to monthly ARABIES—date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Interviewer] King Hassan II has received a delegation from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro for the first time. Do you think that this initial contact will lead to a referendum on self-determination in the Sahara soon?

[Filali] The organization of the Sahara referendum was decided by a peace plan put forward by the UN secretary general which all sides accepted. That visit has nothing to do with the referendum.

Its aim was to listen to those people expressing their view about their future in the territory. It is important to realize that these are discussions not negotiations. We listened to what they had to say to us. We are negotiating indirectly with them through the UN secretary general.

[Interviewer] The solution to the Saharan problem is one of the most tangible and positive results of the normalization of your relations with Algeria. This normalization has made it possible to revive the plan for Maghreb unity. Could you give the broad outlines of that plan?

[Filali] It is an old plan: It was inherent in the principles of the national liberation struggle in Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco; it was the North African national movement's goal of unity. The stages in this plan were defined in the historic speech which the late King Mohammed V made in Tangiers in 1947. And the broad outlines of inter-Maghreb cooperation were decided by the leaders of the national movement in 1958, also in Tangiers.

And the Maghreb started very well; commissions were formed; ministers had meetings; decisions were made initiating the integration of education and some economic sectors—transportation among others. An official office set up in Tunis coordinated the commissions' work.

Unfortunately, that work stopped as a result of disputes which arose among the Maghreb partners, essentially between Algeria and Morocco because of the tension caused by the Saharan affair.

But, since the resumption of relations between Algeria and Morocco, an atmopshere of trust has been created between the two countries and between the two heads of state, and the first Maghreb summit in Algiers gave a political commission responsibility for preparing for Maghreb building.

Big Entities—Pillars of International Relations

[Interviewer] What results has that had?

[Filali] I must say that they are very satisfactory, because the specialized commissions—in the spheres of finance, the economy, the free circulation of people, education, and culture—adopted extremely important resolutions, some of which are already leading to integration in individual sectors.

The second summit in Morocco gave a free hand for the implementation of these plans and the definition of the Maghreb's institutions. It is obvious that that is a vital necessity, because we are living in a world in which groups are increasingly becoming the basis for diplomatic action and interstate relations.

It would be unforgivable for the Maghreb countries which have so many ties (the same language, the same religion, the same national struggle, the same development problems) to be incapable of harmonizing and integrating their views and problems in a coherent entity which can have talks on an equal footing with other entities, such as the western Mediterranean and the EC with which we have important relations.

Discussions between the Maghreb and European groups will have much more credibility than discussions between the Community and separate countries. [Interviewer] What are the repercussions of the opening up of relations between Morocco and Algeria, notably in the economic sphere?

[Filali] The Algerian-Moroccan liquid gas project is being studied. Meanwhile, Algeria is now importing some of the goods it requires, including food and other products. Moroccan agriculture can partly satisfy that demand. Similarly there are now Algerian industrial products in Morocco. Cooperation is therefore increasing for the two countries' benefit.

[Interviewer] In Maghreb countries, a broad debate on human rights has started in earnest. Do you think there is a joint search for a Maghreb democracy?

[Filali] This is a problem which is not on the agenda. I think that in the institutional framework, there will be a body which represents the five countries' legislative powers, but on what basis? This is asking too much at present.

We must avoid imitating models from elsewhere. Europe took 10 years or more to set up a European Parliament. It is too soon to ask our five countries, which have different regimes, to do everything on the first day. But we are thinking about it.

[Interviewer] Has Libya really rejoined the Maghreb family? What is the level of your relations with that country?

[Filali] I do not see why I should criticize Libya. It has welcomed the Maghreb plan. President al-Qadhdhafi took part in the summit. The Libyans have joined all the specialized commissions, making constructive proposals. Libya is therefore undoubtedly part of our Maghreb entity.

[Interviewer] Could the tension in Libya's relations with Washington and London slow down Maghreb building?

[Filali] No. Maghreb building does not depend on any temporary circumstances. It is the result of historical necessity and a common will. Any tensions which exist between certain countries will not have any repercussions on the joint plan.

[Interviewer] Is it true to say that the aim of economic complementarity dominates the Maghreb plan, especially with the approach of the unification of the EEC market in 1993?

[Filali] The aim is not just economic complementarity. The single European market is one of the important subjects being jointly considered. But Maghreb building is primarily a political matter. The decision on European building was originally a political decision.

It is obvious that our countries will initially strive to define the Maghreb institutions. They will therefore make political decisions which will have economic, financial, and social consequences. This will make Euro-Maghreb discussions easier in 1993. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] At the last Franco-African summit in Casablanca, Morocco advocated Arab-African dialogue. Will Moroccan diplomacy try to promote that dialogue?

[Filali] We have always been strong advocates of Arab-African cooperation and we have always regretted the fact that it was handicapped by an unfortunate decision by the Africans who accepted the so-called Saharan Republic as an OAU member.

That decision hampered the development of our cooperation, because it was unthinkable for Arab countries to sit at a table with that entity which they did not recognize, which claims to be an "Arab Republic," and which is not even an Arab League member.

It was then that Arab-African dialogue ended and we regret that because Africa is still in an extremely serious economic situation: The Arabs wanted to help their African friends in any way they could. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] The proclamation of the Palestinian state and especially the opening [words obscured] the Palestinians and the United States mark a turning point in the Near East conflict. Do you think we are moving closer to an international conference or to a Soviet-American agreement on the Near East?

[Filali] I think there are very favorable developments in the Near East. I think the conference is vital, whatever the degree of agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States.

The main protagonists must be present—the Palestinians, the Israelis, the Syrians, and the others.... For the time being Israel says this is out of the question. Are the Israelis intelligent people?

The dialogue which has started between the United States and the PLO is a decisive stage in the search for peace. It is impossible to remain isolated in a world which is seeking harmony and dialogue. As soon as the PLO recognized Resolutions 242 and 338, that meant it recognized Israel's existence.

When you recognize a country's existence, it is usually with a view to living in peace with it. Israel has already lived with war for 40 years. Unless it is masochistic, it must move toward peace and future cooperation.

Are the Israelis really intelligent enough to seize this opportunity when the time comes, setting aside hindrances and taboos? Others have done it before them. We too were "terrorists" for the French, so were the Algerians. Everybody was once a "terrorist...." That is meaningless.

I think that this international conference will take place. First, we must wait for the new U.S. Administration, give it time to assess the situation and make the necessary contacts. But I think that 1989 could have pleasant surprises in store.

Sudan

Al-Mirghani on Peace Talks, Ties With Egypt

JN1104180289 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 10 Apr 89 p 17

[Interview with State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani by Husayn Tantawi in Jeddah; date not given]

[Text] [Tantawi] It is noticeable that intensive political moves are being effected by the State Council with a number of neighboring, fraternal, and friendly states. What is the objective of these moves?

[Al-Mirghani] That is correct. The State Council has adopted the policy of activating political moves between Sudan on the one hand and fraternal, friendly, and neighboring states on the other. Besides, the Sudanese political movement inside the homeland has finally decided to give the issues of peace and negotiations with Colonel John Garang the required effectiveness. It has also decided to unify its ranks with the aim of creating a stable climate.

The State Council chairman and members, the prime minister, and the foreign minister are holding intensive contacts and paying visits to neighboring states to keep them informed of political developments in Sudan and also of the peace endeavors pertaining to southern Sudan.

We have informed the Arab League and the Organization of African Unity of the outcome of the talks with the John Garang movement. We have also announced to the world that the southern Sudanese political groupings have for the first time agreed to select their representatives for the central government and regional governments.

We have supplied Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Kenya with the documents and official papers endorsed by the Sudanese Government in this regard. There is no doubt that by exchanging visits leaders have the chance to be better informed and hold more comprehensive consultations in the interests of their own states.

[Tantawi] The national unity government took over a few days ago. How far will this government go in implementing the peace agreement?

[Al-Mirghani] The new government has drawn up a phased program on the future stage, spelling out its priorities and what must be done about these priorities. At the top of this program is the issue of peace in Sudan. The government as well as the Constituent Assembly have approved the Sudanese peace initiative signed on 16 November 1988 by the Democratic Unionist Party and the John Garang movement.

A ministerial committee headed by the deputy prime minister and foreign minister is currently making special arrangements for the agreement, putting the agreement

in force, the cease-fire, and preparations for the formation of a preparatory committee to lay the groundwork for the national constitutional conference.

[Tantawi] Are you confident that the other party will implement the agreement?

[Al-Mirghani] We are confident that peace will be realized, God willing. Besides, the peace agreement is not in its final draft. Nay, it is a procedural agreement that will give all the Sudanese the chance to sit at the negotiating table to discuss their issues and problems. This will be done at the national constitutional conference through a democratic dialogue, which is the only way for us to reach the desired result.

The conference will not be a closed meeting. Nay, its deliberations will be conveyed to the entire world through various news media, and any party that might attempt to act recklessly or deviate without reasonable justifications or reasons will be judged by the entire world. There is no doubt that world public opinion has a big effect on the course of events of sensitive issues, particularly those concerning peace and stability.

[Tantawi] What are the priorities of the current phase for Sudan?

[Al-Mirghani] Peace and nothing but peace, as it is the basis of any stability, be it political, economic, or social.

[Tantawi] In light of the expulsion of Sudanese diplomats by Kenya, where are Sudanese-Kenyan relations heading?

[Al-Mirghani] I would like to affirm that there is no diplomatic or political crisis between Sudan and Kenya. The Kenyan Government contacted us after the incident, in which our diplomats there were informed that they were being expelled as persona non grata and affirmed that the move does not seek to undermine Sudanese-Kenyan relations.

The Kenyan officials also asserted that the issue is restricted to the expulsion of the diplomats and that they will be ready to receive Sudanese replacements at the earliest possible opportunity. Moreover, the Sudanese Foreign Ministry is studying the issue carefully to take the required stand on it. [Al-Tantawi] How would you describe the relief work currently taking place in southern Sudan and are there any efforts being exerted to increase this work?

[Al-Mirghani] We are working very hard with the United Nations and the donor countries to bring relief to the south before the rainy season comes. The total amount of relief expected to be transported this April, which is the month during which the cease-fire was declared, is estimated at 1,000 tonnes of grain to be transported by air, sea, and river from inside Sudan.

As is known, Sudan has achieved a surplus in corn. All means of land, sea, and air transport are participating in carrying the relief goods.

There are also transportation operations from Kenya and Uganda organized by the United Nations and various relief organizations. The value of these materials is estimated at over $132 million, $50 million of which comes from the inside. These costs include buying, storing, and transporting the relief goods.

In general, the relief operation curently taking place in Sudan is one of the largest in the world, considering the amount required to be transported and the limited time set for it.

In a month's time, it will become difficult to move around in southern Sudan due to the various climatic circumstances such as rain, floods, and main road blockages. We hope these operations will succeed in overcoming the danger of starvation for our brothers in the south of the country.

[Al-Tantawi] The citizens' living expenses have been noticed to increase. Are there no set ceilings for that?

[Al-Mirghani] Establishing peace in Sudan will certainly reflect on the political, economic, and social climate's stability. The current government will set up defined programs to increase the supply of basic commodities, especially after the country has witnessed an excess in some major crops such as corn.

The government is now trying through an ambitious program to cooperate with fraternal countries such as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to provide wheat and petroleum products. Saudi Arabia previously supplied us with oil grants amounting to over $332 million. These grants helped us to overcome many of our production and consumption crises.

The oil bill consumes over two-thirds of export revenues. And as you know, oil, unlike any other commodity, is vital for Sudan. It goes into the generation of water and electricity, in addition to making private and public vehicles move.

Transporting the agricultural crops from the areas of production to the areas of distribution requires huge amounts of oil. To be honest, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has always provided Sudan's economy with unlimited support and without any intentions, harm, or obligations.

[Al-Tantawi] Will legislative elections take place at their set time?

[Al-Mirghani] Yes. The legislative elections will take place at their set time and there is no intention to postpone them at all.

[Al-Tantawi] Currently, the Arab countries are setting up regional unions to coordinate relations between them. To which group will Sudan belong or do you have any other arrangements?

[Al-Mirghani] In my opinion, the Arab groupings are a beneficial trend for coordination, discussion, cooperation, and mutual aid. It is a worldwide trend, which we see in Western Europe and other places.

We also have a successful experience in this field, which is the Gulf Cooperation Council and which has achieved unlimited success and effectiveness, whether for the benefit of one country or the Arab nation on the whole. It has also played a positive role in the Iran-Iraq war, managing to protect the world from the dangers of expansion or the involvement of other countries.

We hope the other two attempts will succeed—the Arab Maghreb Union and the Arab Cooperation Council. We in Sudan are overjoyed at anything that unites the Arabs and their stands.

As for Sudan's participation, we are at the moment in the process of reorganizing the Sudanese house and solving the problems of the war in the south of the country. We are on the threshold of general elections. In 10 months' time and after the general elections, we can consider what to do about regional Arab groupings. [Al-Tantawi] Has the ice on Egyptian-Sudanese relations thawed as a result of your recent visit to Egypt and your meeting with your brother, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak?

[Al-Mirghani] There is no ice in relations between Sudan and Egypt. I visited Egypt for several hours on Thursday before last [30 March] and held a meeting with my brother, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, on the region's concerns, the Middle East issue, and bilateral relations.

I did not sense the existence of any ice at all. I affirm that relations between the two countries are good and there are no real problems or differences.

[Al-Tantawi] Observers described your visit to Saudi Arabia as successful. What are the dimensions of the Saudi-Sudanese relations in light of that visit?

[Al-Mirghani] I thankfully received an invitation from my brother, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, to visit Saudi Arabia to exchange views on issues of common interest. We also discussed bilateral relations and ways to promote them as well as issues of interest to both the Arab and Islamic nations.

The talks were held in a cordial and brotherly atmosphere characterized by understanding. I briefed the custodian of the two holy mosques on political developments in Sudan resulting from the establishment of the national unity front government under brother Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi—a government that represents a large base and the new goals in implementing the phased program.

I also informed him of the decision of the new government and the Constituent Assembly to adopt the Sudanese peace agreement, which was signed by the Unionist Democratic Party and the Garang movement, to bring about peace in the southern regions and stability in Sudan in general.

I also agreed with the custodian of the two holy mosques to promote the existing relations between the two fraternal countries and peoples to double the channels of communication as well as coordination on issues of interest to the two countries and the region.

There is no doubt that Saudi Arabia is playing an important role in clearing the Arab atmosphere in general, unifying Arab ranks, and reaching an Arab unanimity to enable the Arab nation to overcome its problems, including those of development, and unify its positions on the fateful Arab issues, foremost of which are the Palestine question and holy Jerusalem.

Undoubtedly, Saudi Arabia is completely fit for this role because it has succeeded in playing it to a great extent and we hope it will complete its pan-Arab mission by exerting its efforts to hold an ordinary Arab summit conference in Riyadh and achieve the required Arab unianimity.

We also thank Saudi Arabia for its unlimited assistance to Sudan by establishing an unprecedented airlift to Sudan during the flood disasters. It also hastened to save its brothers across the Red sea—a fact that proves that the Red Sea brings together and does not separate the two fraternal peoples.

We also declare our pride in the great achievemensts of the fraternal Kingdom as well as our admiration for its great progress in all areas—a progress that exceeds that of the big powers over several centuries and is a leap that has placed the Kingdom on an equal footing with the big powers in terms of development. The Kingdom has also enabled the sons of Islam to perform pilgrimage and minor pilgrimage easily and securely.

SUNA: Defense Minister Returns From Libya

EA1104150789 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Apr (SUNA)—The minister of defence, Maj-Gen (rtd) Mubarak 'Uthman Rahmah, returned yesterday from Libya, concluding a three-day official visit during which he met with the Libyan leadership.

Rahmah conferred while there with some members of the historical leadership on bilateral relations and ways of their promotion. The defense minister said the visit aimed at acquainting Libyan officials with the development of the political and security situation in Sudan.

Tunisia

President Reaffirms Confidence in Prime Minister

LD1104131789 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 apr 89

[Text] The Presidency of the Republic has issued the following statement: President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has decided to reaffirm his confidence in Hedi Baccouche, the prime minister.

Baccouche Announces Government Reshuffle 11 Apr

LD1104133889 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning met with Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche. The meeting took place at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage. Following the meeting, the prime minister announced that the president of the Republic has decided to institute ministerial changes. Accordingly, the formation of the government will be as follows:

Prime Minister—Hedi Baccouche

Minister of Justice—Hamed Karoui

Minister of Foreign Affairs—Abdelhamid Escheikh

Secretary General of the Presidency—Mohamed el-Jeri

Minister of National Defense—Abdallah Kallel

Minister of Interior—Chadli Neffati

Governor of the Central Bank—Ismail Khelil

Minister of Planning and Finance—Mohamed Ghannouchi

Minister of National Economy—Moncef Belaid

Minister of Agriculture—Nouri Zorgati

Minister of Equipment and Housing—Ahmed Fria

Minister of Transport—Ahmed Smaoui

Minister of Tourism and Handicrafts—Mohamed Jegham

Minister of Communications—Sadok Rabah

Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research—Mohamed Charfi

Minister of Culture and Information—Habib Boulares

Minister of Public Health—Dali el Jazi

Minister of Social Affairs—Moncer Rouissi

Minister of Youth and Childhood—Hamouda Ben Slama

Secretary General for the Government—Taoufik Cheikhrouhou

Secretary of State in Charge of Religious Affairs—Kacem Bousnina

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs—Lahbib Ben Yahya

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in Charge of Maghreb Affairs— Mohamed Amamou

Secretary of State for National Economy in charge of Industry and Trade—Mouldi Zouaoui

Secretary of State for National Economy in charge of Energy and Mines—Lahbib Lazrag

Secretary of State for Agriculture—Mohsen Boujbel

Secretary of State for Agriculture in charge of Water—Amer Horchani

Secretary of State for Equipment and Housing in charge of Housing and Urban Development—Mohamed Ali Bouleymane

Secretary of State for Higher Education and Scientific Research in Charge of Education—Ahmed Khaled

Secretary of State for Higher Education and Scientific Research in Charge of Higher Education and Scientific Research—Sadok Chaabane

Secretary of State for Public Health—Taher Azaiez

Secretary of State for Social Affairs—Nabiha Gueddana

Information Agreement Signed With Libya 7 Apr

LD0704174789 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Information Minister Abdelmalek Laarif and Dr Rajab Abu Dabbus, secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture, signed this morning at the Ministry of Information an agreement consolidating cooperation in the information field between Tunisia and the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

Dr Abu Dabbus expressed the hope that all the clauses of the agreement will become a tangible reality, making the two fraternal people closer and the work cohesive.

Abdelmalek Laarif in his turn pointed out that the agreement will strengthen the existing cooperation in the field of information between the two and make joint

programming in radio and television more diversified and deeper and will open the door for joint radio and television production toward better economical production. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Visit by Libya's Jallud, Al-Humaydi

Welcomed by Baccouche

LD1004194889 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1850 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Tunis, 10 Apr (JANA)—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud and Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, accompanied by the secretary of the General People's Committee and secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, arrived this evening at Tunis-Carthage international airport on a visit to Tunisia to take part in the second meeting of the follow-up higher committee.

Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud and Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi and the accompanying delegation were welcomed by brother Hedi Baccouche, Tunisian prime minister. [passage omitted]

Hold Talks With Baccouche

LD1104151789 Tripoli JANA in English 1420 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Tunis, April 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—A working session was held last night between Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi and Mr Baccouche, the prime minister of sisterly Tunisia.

Present at this meeting were the secretary of the General People's Committee, the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, Mr al-Shaykh in sisterly Tunisia and the general representative of Tunisia in great Al-Jamahiriyah besides a number of experts and technicians from the one Arab country great Al-jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia. [sentence as received]

At this meeting, a survey was conducted of the results achieved by the sub-committees set up by the follow-up supreme committee.

Relations Hailed

LD1104211589 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] The Tunisian-Libyan Followup Higher Committee held its second meeting this afternoon at the Casbah palace under the chairmanship of Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud. The meeting was attended by a number of Tunisian and Libyan officials. Baccouche and Jallud hailed bilateral relations and expressed optimism over the results of the current meeting of the committee.

JANA Details Talks

LD1104211689 Tripoli JANA in English 1811 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Tunis, Al-Tayr [April] 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The supreme follow-up committee between great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia held its second meeting at noon today at the cabinet building in the capital Tunis with Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi and Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche of Tunisia attending.

The meeting also was attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee, the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, Abdelhamid Escheikh the minister of foreign affairs, Chadli Neffati the interior minister, the general envoy of great Jamahiriyah to Tunisia, the general envoy of Tunisia to great Jamahiriyah and a number of experts and technicians members of the committee.

In an address to the opening session of the committee, Staff Major Jallud stressed that any project for change in the Arab homeland, if not based upon and the essence of unity action, would lose the ingredient of life and success.

"Any talk of democracy, socialism, development, improving living standard and progress under regionalism will be a sort of deceit and turning faces upside down. We feel happy that we are speaking one language and use unified vocabulary, for we used to suffer in fact when we used to follow up the political and ideological movement prior to 7th November in Tunisia.

"The 7th of November had saved us efforts, reduced distances and the changing processes it created Tunis would have never arrived at if it were not for the qualitative trnasformation created by the 7th of November, the Arab people of Tunisia and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and the nationalist freedom-fighters who had struggled throughout the periods of liberation until now."

He indicated that the embodiment of the political will required awareness of the two countries' cadres to achieve the aspirations of the one Arab people in unity.

Staff Major Jallud stressed upon the importance of the participation of nationalists in both countries in this unity project to make it a success and deprive the doubtful people of the opportunity to spoil it, for unity is a proof of the independence of our decision and will, because unity is not favoured by the enemies of the Arab nation...for there is a danger facing our unity and our future." [quotation marks as received]

Concluding his speech, Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud confirmed: "There is no development, and no progress without unity, because unity now has become the grand revolution."

Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi stressed in the meeting on the important role of the supreme follow-up committee in outlining the unity structure between the two countries, boosting the subcommittees and guide them to complete the unity action which foundations were laid by the leader of the great Al-Fatah revolution and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in their continued meetings.

He said: "Before 7 November we were different in our approaches and after achieving political will—thanks to this change, we arrived at this step—which is a great deed on the road of Arab unity action.

"The unity march is long and needs our provision for it. As a supreme committee, we must put forth the unity programme because we are partners in the unity march which urges us for more solidarity due to our historic and struggle links."

Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche of sisterly Tunisia delivered a speech at the beginning of which he welcomed Staff Major Jallud and Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Huwaydi and their accompanying delegation praising the fraternal relations binding both sisterly countries stressing that such relations had become characteristic after November 7 and an ideal example of how relations should be.

He stressed upon the importance of the steps embodied by both countries on the road of integration and unity and upon the unity spirit that prevailed over the meetings of the sectorial committees and this committee to arrive at the desired results.

The supreme committee listened to the outcome of the meetings of the sectorial committees held recently in both great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia within the framework of merging and integrating various sectors in both countries to realise the ambitions of their one Arab people in unity and building the borderless Arab Maghreb.

Also in the meeting, an evaluation was made for the outcome of the sessions and works of the sectorial committees stressing the need on completing the unity steps and drafting the practical visions to achieve such unity approach.

Libyans Received by Ben Ali

LD1204011289 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received this evening at the palace in Carthage Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud and Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, who took part in the meeting of the Tunisian-Libyan followup committee. Following the audience, which was attended by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, Staff Maj 'Abd al-Salam Jallud stated that he is pleased to meet with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

He added that he senses in him a responsiveness and also eagerness to give the necessary momentum to the work of the committee, pointing out in this context that the head of state had clarified many issues, a matter which will help this committee in carrying out the tasks entrusted to it.

He said: We always feel when we meet President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali that he embodies the hopes which we look for, these being the basic tenets of 7 November. He said that the common will of the two leaderships in Tunisia and Libya is inspired by the concerns of the two peoples and their aspiration for unity between the two countries. He said this unity is leading the way toward unionist action at the Arab Maghreb level and also at the Arab nation level.

Minutes Signed; Libyans Depart

LD1204085189 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0001 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Libyan delegation which took part in the proceedings of the second session of the Higher Tunisian-Libyan follow-up committee, tonight left Tunis. A ceremony was held at the VIP Hall at Tunis-Carthage International Airport during which Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, signed the minutes of the second meeting of the higher follow-up committee.

Also the Tunisian general commissioner to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the permanent representative of the Jamahiriyah in Tunis have exchanged the documents of ratification of eight cooperation agreements between the two countries. These agreements concern the fields of joint exploitation of the continental shelf, marine fishing, the combat of desert locusts, express post, and social security in addition to an agreement on the establishment of the "Ibn Khaldun Institute for Audio-Visual Production".

Kuwait

Editorial Urges U.S. 'Neutrality' in Mideast

JN1204091489 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 10 Apr 89 p 1

[Editorial by 'Abdallah Ahmad Husayn: "We Demand No More Than Neutrality"]

[Text] The U.S. President has appointed an ambassador to the Afghan opposition. We are not entitled to oppose or approve this step because the United States is a sovereign state. Just as we reject its interference in our Arab affairs, the United States has the right to reject our interference in its affairs.

However, we do have the right to wonder whether the United States takes some of its positions to support Islam and the Muslims and whether it supports the Afghan opposition for this reason. If this is why a U.S. ambassador was appointed and the Afghan opposition is supported, we thank the United States very much.

But this leads us to another question: Why doesn't the United States recognize the State of Palestine and why doesn't it send an ambassador to it and support it, especially since this state's entire territories have been occupied by foreign racist Zionist gangs, while Afghanistan is still ruled by some of its citizens, although not popular, and the foreigners who occupied Afghanistan have left?

The U.S. President can declare that he is free to take whatever position he wishes and has the right to support the victim and refuse to support the other side. But do we not have the right to take a position on U.S. support for our enemies, who are occupying our lands?

While talking about the Afghan opposition, I feel pride when I hear that the Arabs who are fighting in Afghanistan are fighting on the front lines and that they are the efficient main assault force on the front. I feel pride in the Arabs' courage.

But I wonder if Palestine is not a more suitable arena for such courage. Why did not we hear about these fighters during the huge, serious, and brutal assaults against Arab Iraq and why did not we hear about them in the splendid and honorable Arab intifadah [uprising]in Palestine?

Are the Arabs in Palestine not real while the Afghan opposition in Afghanistan is real? Is Israel less dangerous than communism, if we assume there is danger in communism?

Will the existence of a U.S. ambassador to the Afghan opposition be a prelude to an acceptable U.S. neutrality between the Arabs and the Zionists? We do not want more than U.S. neutrality.

We do not ask the United States to send an ambassador to the State of Palestine as it did to the Afghan opposition. We ask the Arab governments to urge the United States to be neutral between the Palestinian state and Israel.

We ask the Arab governments to meet their Arab nation's aspirations and we demand one of two things: U.S. neutrality and Arab friendship or submission to Zionism and an Arab boycott. We will have our word in either case.

PDRY

Energy Minister on Foreign Oil Exploration

PM1204111889 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Apr 89 pp 1-2

[Report on interview with Salih Abu Bakr bin Husaynun, deputy prime minister and energy and mineral resources minister, by Qasiyy Salih al-Darwish; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] Salih Abu Bakr bin Husaynun, PDRY deputy prime minister and energy and mineral resources minister, has said that his country has granted French and U.S. companies concessions to explore for oil in return for half the oil output for 20 years.

In an exclusive interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the PDRY official pointed out that the decision to grant concessions to Western companies, as well as the Soviet Union, is due to the fact that Moscow's exploration for oil is conducted under the terms of a loan which his country will have to repay in the future.

The Yemeni deputy prime minister revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that his recent visit to France was crowned with the initial approval of France's contribution of $30 million to the Aden refinery modernization project and an agreement to install a modern 70,000-line telephone network costling $35 million. He said that a preliminary protocol on the two projects has been signed pending the two governments' approval. [passage omitted]

He added that the PDRY Government has granted the company Elf Aquitaine the right to explore for oil in Aden and Ibayn Governorates and the Sirr-Hazr area north of Shabwah.

As for Total, it has been given the important area east of Shabwah. [passage omitted]

[Al-Darwish] Have any concessions been granted to companies other than the French companies and the Soviet Union?

[Husaynun] To the Canadian company Oxy.

[Al-Darwish] No U.S. companies?

[Husaynun] Everyone knows that Oxy is a branch of a big U.S. company. Some areas are still open to all companies. We have received applications from companies asking for concessions to explore for oil in these areas, including U.S. and other Western companies. [passage omitted]

[Al-Darwish] What is the volume of present oil output?

[Husaynun] Some 800 tonnes a day, which we transport by trucks. But at the end of the year and the beginning of next year we will start to operate the Shabwah-[Talhaf] pipeline along the Red Sea coast, which was laid by the Soviet Union. The pipeline will pump 30,000 barrels a day, increasing to 120,000 tonnes [as published] a day in 1991.

[Al-Darwish] What is the volume of oil reserves?

[Husaynun] The reserves in Shabwah are estimated at 500 million tonnes, as geological deposits.

[Al-Darwish] With this quantity you could join OPEC. Do you intend to do so?

[Husaynun] We have not yet discussed this matter, but when we start exporting it would be possible.

[Al-Darwish] Is there any cooperation with Arab oil experts with a view to exploiting Yemeni oil?

[Husaynun] Of course there are experts and there is cooperation with Kuwait and Iraq. There are Yemeni students in Arab oil institutes and we have concluded a contract with the Iraqi Oil Ministry for the provision of experts to perform consultancy services in the oil sector.

[Al-Darwish] What about oil coordination with the YAR?

[Husaynun] Coordination is based on exchanging information in various fields including refining. Talks are now being held with regard to refining Ma'rib's oil in the Aden refinery. And this was agreed at the joint ministerial committee's recent meeting presided over by the prime ministers of the two parts of Yemen. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Dubayy Grants Intifadah 10.8 Million Dirham

JN1104183289 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 10 Apr 89 p 1

[Text] Dubayy—AL-BAYAN—The Dubayy government yesterday presented 10.8 million dirham to support the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] in the occupied Arab territories, which yesterday entered its 17th month.

Husayn Sabir Sa'dun, the Palestine Embassy representative in Dubayy and the northern United Arab Emirates, received a check for that the amount from Qasim Sultan, deputy head of the Dubayy municipality, upon his reception in the latter's office in Dubayy.

AL-ITTIHAD on 'Doubled-Faced' U.S. Policy

JN1104160889 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 10 Apr 89 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] When U.S. Secretary of State James Baker speaks about differences between the American and Israeli stands on the Middle East issue, he is in fact trying to hide U.S. support for the plan of the Israeli entity's prime minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, because the American stand is essentially based on rejecting the establishment of the Palestinian state. And this means support for the plan to hold elections in the occupied territories under Zionist occupation and the terrorist practices carried out by the occupation forces day and night.

Baker in fact was propagating the Shamir plan when he said that stopping the intifadah [uprising] is not a condition for holding elections—as if he were presenting an attractive offer for the Arabs.

Bush's and then Baker's rejection of both the establishment of the Palestinian state and the continuation of the occupation is not harmonious. How is it that the occupation cannot continue and at the same time a Palestinian state cannot be established on its territory?

This is in fact a double-faced policy that uses two languages. This dualism prevents a fair view of the Palestinian people's rights and consequently does not present a positive stand in the service of peace in the Middle East.

The fair stand is a clear one that openly and frankly supports Arab rights. The fair stand does not produce a positive statement today and torpedo it by a contradictory statement tomorrow.

The United States, the superpower, is called upon to have one face and speak one language so it will not stray far away from the path of truth, rights, and justice.

Deputy Prime Minister Ramadan Interviewed

sk1104224089 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 1 Apr 89 p 5

[By Associate Editor Kim Myong-sik]

[Text] Baghdad, Iraq—Like other senior government officials of Iraq, First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan wears olive drab military fatigues while at work in his office, located in the same government complex which also houses the office of President Saddam Husayn.

The austere-looking ex-Army major who joined the 1968 revolution along with Ahmad al-Bakr and Husayn now acts as the head of the cabinet in the unique Iraqi government structure which has no post of prime minister. Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], is the other closest deputy of President Husayn who is also chairman of the RCC.

In a 90-minute interview with visiting Korean journalists, Ramadan expressed strong hope for Korean enterprises' continued participation in the construction projects in his country, which is just out of a protracted war with Iran.

He insisted that the financing difficulties in contracts with foreign builders are just "temporary." During the war, it had been customary for half of the contract price to be paid in oil and the other half in a 24-month deferred payment scheme.

the following are excerpts from the conversation.

On the Impact of War on Iraqi Economy, Society

Korea also had a war in the 1950s, but the consequences of war have been different in the two countries. The result in Iraq was a clear victory while it was not so in your country. Through this war, we achieved reinforced unity of our people. The unity was displayed in confronting the enemy during the war and it is now demonstrated in the reconstruction of the country. So the result was not as bad as in other countries. In the reconstruction programs, exceptional methods are being employed.

Especially in Al-Basra, the second largest city which suffered the heaviest damage, we are employing very new and innovatory ways and means. Whoever saw the destruction of the city probably believed that at least five years would be necessary to complete the work. But we will finish it in three to four months. We will not only restore the damage but make the city better than it was before.

On Economic Cooperation Between Korea and Iraq

We should say that economic cooperation between the two countries is just beginning. We are fully satisfied with the level of cooperation and want to develop it. The relations between Seoul and Baghdad started during the war.

The performance of Korean companies in Iraq was excellent and we appreciate it. Yet, in the future, we can have diversified forms of cooperation, creating joint projects in the areas of engineering and mechanical industries. We have certain difficulties as a result of the war and we hope that Korean companies will adequately understand our situation. I must say that we are optimistic about our future.

On Difficulties in Financing Contracts With Foreign Firms

I don't think that financing is so complex a problem. Korean companies must understand whatever difficulties we are experiencing now are just temporary. We can overcome those problems soon and therefore the Korean companies will hopefully look at the situation from a long-range point of view. Don't worry about the economic future of Iraq.

On the Restoration of Historical Sites of Babylon and Other Places in Iraq

They are the common property of all mankind, but many of the relics have been stolen by supposedly respectable countries in the world.

Babylon represents the great civilization of humanity and we are making great efforts in the restoration work.

On Peace Negotiations With Iran

It is true that little progress is being made in the negotiations and the major problem is that Iran does not believe in peace to start with. Iran accepted the U.N. Security Council resolution only one year after defeat became clear on its side.

Now internal problems in Iran make it even more difficult to settle peace. Each party in the Iranian power struggle is trying to show the people that they are doing better than the others, complicating the situation.

On Prospects of Elevating Relations Between Seoul and Baghdad

As I said, the relations between the two countries have been very good so far and further improvements can be made by means of economic cooperation. As for elevating bilateral relations to the ambassadorial level from the present consulate general status, Iraq and Korea reached an agreement three years ago but its implementation has been delayed due mainly to the internal conditions of Korea.

On the Significance of the General Elections in April

In Iraq, parliamentary democracy had been absent for a long time due to internal and external conditions, but since the 1968 revolution, the study was made of development of parliamentary democracy. The first general elections were held in 1980 and we just had elections for the third time in April.

In the meantime, we have been searching for ways to make the parliament the center of decision-making—the center of democratic politics instead of political chaos. Before this vote, measures have been taken so that the parliament can inspect government and withdraw confidence from certain cabinet ministers individually or as a whole.

Laws have been promulgated to enlarge the basis of participation of the people. Laws now guarantee that all candidates have equal opportunities for publicity with the same time for speaking in rallies and the same number of pictures posted. The National Assembly has been given new powers to make it the major political institution in Iraq.

On the Role of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], Which Groups Together Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and North Yeman Under the Initiative of Saddam Husayn

The ACC is the main fruit of Iraq's victory in the war against Iran. This new organization (inaugurated last February) will play an important role in the relations among Arab nations as it represents the largest percentage of the region's population. It will help promote cooperation among nations and increase chances of development.

Minutes of Export Agreement Signed With Cyprus

JN1104164989 Baghdad INA in English 1530 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 11, INA—Iraq and Cyprus today signed a minute of the complementary meeting within the framework of the joint committee for economic, trade and technical cooperation which was held in Baghdad last march.

The minute which was signed at the headquarters of the Ministry of Transport and Communications stated that the Cypriot side supports the Cypriot exporters to develop and increase their exports to Iraq.

The minute was signed on behalf of Iraq and Cyprus by deputy chairman of the two sides to the joint committee.

Paper Urges 'Summit-Level' Decision on Lebanon

JN1104110089 Baghdad INA in English 0920 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 11, INA—AL-THAWRAH newspaper of Baghdad repeated its call that the Arabs should take an action towards the brutal carnages being perpetrated by Syria in Lebanon.

In its comment today the newspaper has said that the issue necessitates a summit-level Arab resolution restoring to Lebanon its independence, sovereignty and security and forcing the Syrian occupation to relinquish its evil ambitions and stop ruining and tampering with it.

It added that the Syrian escalation of the situation in Lebanon and the Syrian forces' continuous bombardment of Beirut with such brutality means that the Syrian regime is fighting a battle of existence in Lebanon helped by all those who live on continuity of the crisis.

The paper confirmed that Lebanon had decided to get rid of all forms of occupation and solve the internal crisis by understanding among sons of the one country without interference by the occupant or its instruments.

AL-THAWRAH Cited on 'Annulled' 1975 Pact

JN1204113289 Baghdad INA in English 1000 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 12, INA—Iraqi AL-THAWRAH daily has strongly replied to Iranian calls for abiding by the 1975 agreement and said that Iraq is not concerned with them and will not be subject to Iran's bargaining no matter how long the negotiations last.

In a commentary today the daily said that Iraq had been steadfast against the Khomeyni aggression for eight years and would not care about protraction of direct negotiations for any longer time.

The daily emphasised that what was significant for Iraq was preservation of its historic rights in its land and waters as a vital access to stabilizing permanent and comprehensive peace in the Arab Gulf area.

Iraq regarded the agreement as annulled after being violated by Iran absolutely when it interfered in its internal affairs, launched war against it, called in traitors in the north of Iraq and armed and financed them to move rebellion there as well as closed up the Iraqi Shatt al-'Arab waterway in September 1980 all of which motivated eruption of the war.

Iran's intransigence to impose the 1975 agreement on Iraq implied a precondition to go on negotiations and threat against the countries and world interests in the Arab Gulf to resume the policy of aggression and expansion, the daily said adding that such a precondition was merely to show off before the international community that Iran was claiming keenness for security in the region.

The daily stressed that peace and security would not be realized through imposing preconditions and placing obstacles on the way of negotiations and international peaceful efforts, but they would be reached via serious action to implement the 598 Resolution in accord with its serial articles or as a whole to achieve permanent and overall peace in the region.

Arens on 4 Clauses of Shamir Peace Plan

TA1204103789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has said that the four proposals that constitute the basis of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan may shift the peace process. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports from the Knesset that Minister Arens was replying to several motions of no-confidence in the government prompted by Mr Shamir's plan and his refusal to talk with the PLO.

Minister Arens explained that the first clause of the plan proposes that the countries that cosigned the Camp David accords reiterate their commitment to peace. The second clause calls on all Arab countries to sit down at the negotiating table. The third clause urges industrialized Western countries to cooperate with Israel in a joint effort to rehabilitate the refugee camps. The fourth clause proposes elections to enable residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to elect authentic representatives to negotiations with Israel.

The foreign minister noted that, since its establishment 3 and ½ months ago, this government has been vigorously active in promoting the cause of peace.

Newspapers View Peace Plan Presented in U.S.

Action Urged on Process

TA1204134089 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Apr 89 p 11

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "Over to You, George"]

[Text] Whether the Likud can pull it off remains to be seen. In view of the emerging political process, however, the most important question now is whether the U.S. Administration can do so.

Once again, a covert alliance is emerging between Israel's right-wing policy and the PLO. The main hope for thwarting the move the prime minister was forced to make against his will lies in the PLO leadership's opposition to elections in the West Bank. Those on our side who object to such a solution and those who have doubts about its prospects, such as Golda Me'ir in her time, have always been fond of saying that the Arab leaders are the ones who have consistently foiled any agreement. Perhaps now they will have another chance to say the same. The only one that can dispel such a threat is the United States.

Just as on previous occasions, the leftist camp—not only in Israel—will now issue vociferous calls on the PLO not to play its rejectionist tune yet again.

Anthony Lewis, the radical NEW YORK TIMES columnist, this week hastened to print an emotional "open letter to the PLO," calling on it not to stand in the way of the new chances. There is not much sense in such appeals, however, unless they are uttered by the United States. The first difficulty, which became apparent at once, lies in the nature of the Israeli proposal. The current version of the proposal Shamir carried to the United States was conceived in the defense minister's office (amid protests by those demanding direct negotiations with the PLO and by Rabin's detractors); compared to the original, however, which was not flawless itself, the prime minister's brainchild is completely handicapped.

A great deal has been said on this topic and, obviously, the flagrant disadvantages of Shamir's version make it easier for the PLO to voice its objections. Nevertheless, the dynamics begun during Shamir's visit to Washington may definitely defuse the Likud's misgivings. It is no big deal to arrive at a formula providing for political rather than municipal elections with some kind of foreign supervision (even if only symbolic) that would be conducted on the basis of a vague formula recognizing the need for a final solution later in the process. Resolution 242 may serve as the basis for a tacit understanding that reference is to a land-for-peace deal, although this is not stated specifically.

An echo of his realization that ultimately the return of territory will be inevitable could be discerned in Shamir's interviews in the United States. That task will not be my responsibility—so Shamir exonerated himself from the judgment of history in an interview with ABC. When he added, "by then I will no longer be the prime minister," he clearly gave us a look into the world view of a foresighted politician: When the day comes, there will be no choice, but I will have no part in it.

These are not the real problems curbing progress. OK, the prime minister gained time, and months will elapse before he becomes more amenable to Rabin's proposal. He will need some encouragement to that end from his friends, and Washington will presumably oblige generously. The main obstacle at the moment is the PLO's objection to any kind of elections in the West Bank. The tougher nut to crack is the PLO, not the Likud.

In view of the PLO's opposition, it is the United States that is burdened with the main task. In their previous round of diplomatic activity, toward the end of the Reagan administration, the Americans dragged their feet; it was mainly they who frustrated their own initiative, thus wasting precious time. It seems they learned their lesson not to aim too high, both because of the failure of their comprehensive initiative and because they have nothing "big" to offer. But what may not have changed is this worrisome pattern of doubt and vagueness. Except for isolated cases (the most prominent one coming through the dazzling initiative of a local leader, Al-Sadat), all their political moves concerning us eventually vanished into thin air.

An analysis of some of the initiatives undertaken by U.S. Administrations shows that even the most persistent ones—such as the Rogers plan—fell into oblivion without a trace. History also shows that after the failure of each of these plans, a long time elapsed before the United States recovered and got its act together. On one occasion 16 years ago, the time wasted led to the outbreak of war. Now, the threat of a delay is no longer the topic of guess and speculation: the situation in the territories is a live-and-kicking reminder of what will keep happening, and even getting worse, if we once again go into a political period of hibernation.

The way to prevent such a serious danger now lies, first and foremost, in the PLO's backyard. Despite the confusion, a basically simple formula is emerging. If the prime minister is persuaded—or forced—to agree to real elections in the territories, it does not necessarily follow that the PLO will be persuaded to support this notion and recognize its inherent advantages in the future. But, if the PLO is persuaded—or forced—Shamir and the Likud will have no other choice.

That is the mission of the Americans. If they succeed, they will make a breakthrough toward progress. If they fail, we will find ourselves treading a very dangerous course, alongside an intifadah [uprising] whose climax we have not seen yet and perhaps another war. This blistering serve is now in the U.S. President's court, or as anchormen tell each other on U.S. television: "Over to you, George."

U.S. Commitment 'Important'

TA0704130589 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 7 Apr 89 p 2

[Editorial: "We Must Go On"]

[Text] Yesterday U.S. President George Bush announced two fundamental principles of U.S. foreign policy: nonrecognition of a Palestinian state and nonrecognition of the Israeli occupation of the territories and the enforcement of Israeli sovereignty as a final solution.

This formula will underline the political process in the next few months and perhaps even in the next few years, and the prime minister must be pleased about it.

The U.S. commitment to the nonestablishment of a Palestinian state is particularly important in light of the fears that the dialogue between the United States and the PLO might lead to such an end. On the other hand, the prime minister must come to terms with the fact that the annexation of and the enforcement of Israeli sovereignty over the territories is impossible under any agreement whatsoever.

The political room for maneuver created by Bush enables the launching of a direct political process between Israel and the Palestinians, who are the sole and exclusive partners to any solution in the territories. Shamir, who raised the notion of elections during his stay in Washington, must go on working on its implementation in order to create the chance for a genuine peace process.

Shamir is entitled to demand that the PLO should not be a direct partner in the negotiations, but he must allow the Palestinians to elect their own representatives in free elections and without an Israeli dictate.

The United States and its new President have proved that their friendship toward Israel is a matter of tradition and not a personal issue. The United States must go on following the process as an initiator, mediator, and conciliator and not as a dictator of policy. The relative political flexibility he displayed, compared to his positions in the past, are evidence of a correct and new way of thinking on the part of the prime minister.

Shamir, who is leaving Washington strengthened and without a crisis in tow, must go on treading the political path, because there is no other way or solution.

Outcome of U.S. Visit Viewed

JN1004170089 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1440 GMT 10 Apr 89

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: All those who pinned hopes on the U.S. Administration putting pressure on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir during his latest visit to Washington so that Israel would make the concessions required by the Arab side must have been disappointed. All evidence bears witness to the fact that the U.S. Administration did not put any pressure on Israel—nor does it intend to put such pressure within the framework of its effective contribution to the making of a Middle East peace.

This, however, does not mean the U.S. Administration cannot make attempts to put political and economic pressure on Israel. Refraining from such attempts is based, in fact, on firm U.S. convictions that include: 1) The belief that genuine peace cannot be achieved through pressure or coercion or through forcing one of the two parties to make unfair and unjustifiable concessions upon the other; 2) The belief that genuine peace should be achieved as a result of the free will and sincere desire of all parties concerned; 3) The belief that solution to the Middle East crisis should come from the countries of the region itself and that the United States or any other world power cannot impose a solution on the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict; 4) The realization of the U.S. officials that the current Israeli Government, like its predecessors and successors, will not succumb to any pressure, irrespective of its strength and source, if it feels that this may put Israel's security and future at stake or conflict with the high vital interests of Israel and its people.

All in all, it can be said that the outcome of Shamir's latest visit to Washington not only disappointed those who wanted the U.S. Administration to exert pressure on Israel, but also highlighted anew the depth and firmness of the organic friendship between the United States and Israel.

'New-Old' Shamir Plan Decried

TA1104165689 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 8 Apr 89 p 1

[Editorial: "No to the Farcical Leadership and to Autonomy"]

[Text] Among the "new ideas" that he presented to the U.S. Administration two days ago, which are based on the Camp David "accords," Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir proposed holding elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with the aim of, as he said, "allowing the emergence of a delegation that will negotiate for an 'interim' period of autonomy!"

This new-old proposal is likely to not only distort the true characteristics of the Palestinian problem, but to impede if not actually stop the Palestinian, Arab, and international efforts aimed at finding a solution to this problem. These elections are only meant to find a farcical "alternative leadership" to replace the PLO and to remove the PLO from the negotiating table. All that Shamir wants is to "negotiate" with this farcical "leadership" in order to reach agreement on an interim period of "autonomy," to contain the events in the occupied territories, and to split Palestinian national unity.

The Palestinian people, however, through their own will and through their national awareness have declared the PLO to be their sole legitimate representative, and this has been recognized by most of the countries of the world.

As to autonomy, this has been rejected and deemed unacceptable by the Palestinian nation in all its factions. Under no circumstances does autonomy constitute a practical solution, because it does not meet Palestinian aspirations, foremost of which is the establishment of an independent state, which is the natural right of every people.

Finally, there is no alternative but negotiating with the PLO, and there is no room for accepting Israeli plans that consider the Palestinian problem merely a "question of refugees."

Plan 'Disgusting Repetition'

TA1204154989 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Apr 89 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Inverted Logic"]

[Text] At a news conference in Chicago, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir tried to give a new tone to his language when talking about the elections he has proposed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He strived to depict the problem as one of refugee camps, and called on the Arab states to provide aid to Israel to help it solve this problem, adding that the Palestinians would be permitted to enjoy "complete self-rule" with the exception of security and foreign affairs!

Apparently Shamir, who has one eye focused on the intifadah [uprising] and another on the international arena in order to alter Israel's dark image by presenting certain proposals and plans, is aware along with his supporters in the White House that these proposals and plans are a disgusting repetition of ideas that have already been rejected by the Palestinians and the Arabs. It seems that Shamir is trying to convince the world that the intifadah broke out for economic reasons and other demands, such as the holding of municipal elections and improving the quality of life under occupation, overlooking the fact that these issues are only part of the problem.

We believe that the logical response to Shamir's new-old proposals and tunes is for the intifadah to continue and receive Arab and international support, while affirming to Shamir and those who bless his ideas that the Palestinian people long ago decided on their options when they chose the PLO as their sole legitimate representative.

Shamir should realize that a comprehensive and durable resolution of the crisis will not be achieved through deception and trickery and by repeating the same subjects that have been rejected on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels.

A comprehensive settlement is achieved by responding to the peace requirements to which the Arabs and Palestinians have responded. These requirements stem from international legitimacy, and the United States itself is regarded as one of the most prominent countries eager not to tamper with the dignity of this legitimacy.

The Middle East problem is not destined to have a solution as long as Shamir continues with the policy of deceit and trickery, and as long as this policy is supported by the U.S. Administration. It would not be surprising if Shamir adopts more rigid positions in the future as long as he remains sure that he will be immune from any U.S. pressures that force him to change his positions.

U.S. 'No Stance' Stand Viewed

TA1104180089 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 9 Apr 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Beware of the 'Step by Step' Policy"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush yesterday expressed his support for the "step by step" policy in the Middle East. Thus, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is returning through the window after leaving by the door

in President Jimmy Carter's era. Kissinger has not returned to the State Department, but Secretary of State James Baker's six aides have graduated from the Kissinger school.

We recall Kissinger's name with bitterness because, after the October war of 1973 when Arab solidarity had reached its peak, Kissinger was able to fragment this solidarity by his "step by step" policy. Today the U.S. Administration is again pursuing this same policy in an attempt to circumvent Arab consensus and the peaceful Palestinian stance, to foil this stance, to sow discord in the ranks, and to thwart the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories.

The "no stance" U.S. stance is clear. Last week the guests, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, heard what they wanted to hear. The U.S. stance opposes annexation of the occupied territories, and favors an end to the occupation and implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. At the same time it is against the establishment of a Palestinian state, an international peace conference, and recognition of the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

Most dangerous of all is Bush's agreement with Shamir on the need to hold elections in the occupied territories. As is obvious, the aim of elections is to divert attention from the intifadah and to preoccupy the Palestinian people with election rivalries that our people do not need. The aim of elections, also, is to "produce an alternative leadership" from within the occupied territories that will negotiate with Israel.

The important question is: What will the negotiations be about? Shamir wants the negotiations to be within the framework of "autonomy" and the Camp David accords, while the U.S. president wants the negotiations to be the prelude to a final settlement.

American and Israeli policies are in agreement on the elections and the aims. The disagreement is over the role of the "elected leadership." Despite the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue and its positive aspects, the U.S. position is closer to the Israeli one in striving to create an "alternative leadership."

We do not want to be skeptical, but we do not want to harbor the illusion that the U.S. Administration is serious about the necessity of finding a speedy solution to the Palestinian problem, or the Palestinian people's attainment of independence and sovereignty. Thus, we are observing that U.S. policy has returned to what Kissinger used to call constructive ambiguity [preceding two words in English]. This policy is obvious in the U.S. talk, which has more than one interpretation. It hints at the need to have Jordan and Egypt participate in a settlement, while on the other hand it ignores the PLO's role in a subsequent stage, focusing instead on what the elections will produce as main negotiators in a solution.

The thing that we had hoped to feel from the U.S. Administration in its position toward the Palestinian problem is missing. A committed diplomacy, warm meetings, and broad smiles do not change anything substantial.

The Palestinian people are aware of what is going on around them and know what is acceptable or unacceptable. They will not accept the crumbs offered by Shamir and "Kissinger's group."

Likud Faction Sends Congratulations to Shamir

TA1004115389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] This morning, the Likud Knesset faction executive discussed the prime minister's visit to the United States and sent congratulations to Shamir on what it called his successful mission. Faction Chairperson Sara Doron said that, in contrast to the gloomy forecasts, the U.S. Administration welcomed the prime minister's proposals. Knesset Member Mikha'el Eytan, on the other hand, said that elections in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip are politically dangerous and the prime minister's proposals might be taken to mean that the Camp David accords will be implemented without the other side fulfilling its part. Our Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar reports that in Eytan's view, the time should be exploited to expand the settlement drive.

FRG Defense Minister Ends Official Visit

TA1204153089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] West German Defense Minister Rupert Scholz expressed his sympathy with Israel's concern about missiles armed with chemical warheads. In a farewell ceremony before his departure, Mr Scholz said that if it indeed turns out that German companies have aided Iraq in developing such missiles, the appropriate steps will be taken. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports that Defense Minister Rabin wished the guest farewell at Ben-Gurion Airport.

Ra's Burqa' Victims Paid Part of Compensation

TA1204124989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem today paid a part of the Egyptian compensation funds to the victims of the assassination incident in Ra's Burqa'. Our correspondent Bassam Jabir reports that the remainder will be paid after the recipients furnish all the required legal documents.

Knesset Votes Down No-Confidence Motion

TA1204120789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Excerpt] The Knesset struck off its agenda a no-confidence motion submitted by HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] and prompted by the

prime minister's talks in Washington. Explaining the motion, Knesset Member Me'ir Wilner said that since Mr Shamir's plan precludes negotiations with the PLO, it is nothing but a stratagem to stall the peace process in the region. [passage omitted]

IDF Preparing for Longer Stay in Territories

TA0704160389 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
7 Apr 89 p 13

[Commentary by Tali Zelinger: "Territories, Border Police, And All the Rest"]

[Text] Major General Ehud Baraq, the deputy chief of staff, confirmed this week that the planning for the new work year, which began this week, calls for "strengthening the permanent components of the troops operating in the territories." Baraq was referring to the stationing of additional Border Police personnel, the introduction of special armored infantry units, and the continuing operation of special troops. The aforementioned make up a small part of all the troops—mostly reserve units—policing the territories. Senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers will tell you, off the record, that they wish they could expand the "permanent components" and assign more professional troops to these missions, and that this reinforcement is being delayed chiefly because of manpower and budgetary constraints.

Is Israel getting ready for a prolonged stay in the territories in a state of war? Is the IDF readying the establishment of a "garrison force?" Such an option was ruled out for years as an operational solution to policing missions in the territories. History and experience in the field cautioned against the repercussions of such a decision because such solutions do not hold up well in this type situation. A garrison force perpetuates a military state of affairs and invariably retreats under undignified and defeating conditions. Conventional wisdom had it that such a formula would be unsuitable for us.

The intifadah [uprising] has been raging for 16 months, and something resembling the seed of a garrison force is now beginning to emerge. The belief of senior military men that this is the best operational solution, even if it is totally unrealistic at the moment, denotes a change in mood, albeit not a real turning point. So, what has changed? As we said before: 16 months of the intifadah.

During this period, the IDF and the Civil Administration in the territories committed numerous mistakes and learned a lot of lessons. The IDF that entered the intifadah is not the same army that is currently deeply bogged down in it. In addition to the fatigue of the troops, the affect on training programs, the moral confusion seeping like a lethal venom into a society that is learning to resort to violence as a norm and to treat Arabs as animals, the rifts within the army and the ensuing tensions, changes have occurred that definitely are a direct consequence of the last 16 months. Although it may not set up a garrison force—such an aberration will probably not come into being—the army has been adjusting its structure to changes and learning from its bitter lesson in the field.

Legend has it that the original sin lay in the fact that not enough forces were rushed to the scene at the very beginning, and that this is what caused the deterioration. Later on there was a hysterical onrush of troops, and the entire army was paralyzed for almost an entire year. In the course of that year, fundamental decisions were made and orders were issued to carry out a reorganization that would pull the IDF out of the paralysis. It seems that now, upon the end of the first third of the second year, we are witnessing the implementation of those resolutions and orders.

Small and permanent control commands have been established, unlike the four headquarters that existed before the intifadah in Hebron, Nabulus, Ramallah, and Gaza. The small control commands are meant to sustain the shock of the continuous replacement of troops, particularly reservists, who come and go and must be shown the ropes each time anew. Reserve units are stationed for 3 to 4 weeks, while regular soldiers come for a 2-month "stint" (utterly different from their "stints" as part of the annual activity program of the regular forces on the Lebanese border, or in the central or southern part of the country). The control commands are permanent and the ever-changing troops are subordinate to them. The officers in command are some of the best in the IDF, with rich experience in this area and vast combat backgrounds that make them authoritative. Units arriving in the territories for the first time must still pay their dues, but these are slightly lower. What is more, almost all the reserve units being called up at present have already done at least one tour of duty in the territories.

The control commands are responsible for the troops, missions, briefings, equipment, and weapons. The central and southern regional commands are in charge of briefing all units, whether regular or reserves, before they set out on policing missions in the field. These briefings include training them in the use of all types of equipment, explaining the orders on opening fire, and instructing them about contact with the civilian population and the media. Training in the use of equipment has become a metier in its own right in view of the developments and improvements introduced by the IDF with regard to rubber, plastic, pebbles, paint, and water.

The use of these weapons and methods against the civilian population and rioters is currently entrusted to three factors: 1) reserve units—the cream of the crop conduct policing missions, while reservists in auxiliary corps and the Civil Defense see to the security of Jews in the territories; 2) regular army soldiers—new special armored infantry companies began operating recently after undergoing 26 weeks of special training on how to operate in the territories. They will do their entire

military service there, except for those times when they will conduct armored infantry maneuvers with the tank units they would be part of in times of war. A new course will begin with recruits enlisting this summer; 3) army cadets who are summoned whenever necessary (this is being cut down because it disrupts their studies), as well as soldiers in rearguard bases and desk-jockeys who come for a tour of duty in the territories to give the impression that the burden is equally shared by soldiers and reservists, and border policemen who have served in the territories and are regarded as the most professional of all. The IDF quickly realized the need for the latter and consequently beefed up their ranks with new recruits. This led to the establishment of three additional Border Police companies, with the hope that at the end of their standing army service these soldiers would sign up as career soldiers. After all, the IDF cannot afford to assign too many recruits to the Border Police, because it needs manpower for units that may serve in the territories, but can and will also perform other tasks within the framework of the IDF.

In addition, 100 career personnel, mostly professionals, decided to join the Civil Administration after realizing the need to improve the situation in the wake of the intifadah. In terms of logistics, the IDF appears to be organizing for as long a stay as necessary—definitely through the current work year—based on the premise that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will not come back from Washington with a decision to pull the IDF out of the Arab towns. Even if such a miracle occurred, the IDF would not change its deployment all that fast.

The IDF is becoming a well-greased and experienced machine whose heart is insensitive to subtleties; one that regards policing missions in the territories as any other military mission; a machine with no soul and no regard for the human aspect of this maze. The army seems to have grown a thick skin to protect itself from the painful burden that was forced on it against its will. Can this reduce the number of casualties? Statistics tend to play dirty tricks on prophets and those anticipating substantial changes. Historical processes seem to be stronger than any deployment, however sophisticated it may be.

Southern Command Commander Meets Gaza Notables

TA1104165289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] Southern Command, met today with a group of notables in the Gaza Strip, among them Fayiz Abu Rahmah, head of the Gaza Bar Association, and Mansur al-Shawwa, son of the late Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa. Gen Mordekhay and the head of the Civil Administration congratulated the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip on the occasion of the Ramadan fast and noted the measures taken to calm down tempers. The notables voiced their complaints against the IDF. They also said they are opposed to elections in the territories under the occupation, since such elections were meant to establish an alternative leadership to the PLO.

Police Commissioner Gives Data on 1988 Incidents

TA0704173889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Police Commissioner David Kraus, speaking at the economic trade club in Rehovot, said there were 1,500 instances of stone-throwing in the Arab sector within the Green Line last year. He reported that 160 firebombs were hurled.

Kraus added that more than 40 kg of heroin were confiscated in 1988, which is more than six times the amount confiscated 4 years ago. According to Kraus, wide segments of Israeli society use drugs, including high society, athletes, and artists.

4 Uprising Leaders Reportedly Detained

TA1104164989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Today it was learned that four members of the Unified National Command of the Uprising, which is directing the uprising in the territories, have been detained. Our correspondent Yisra'el Peretz reports that the four were detained approximately 1 month ago. Charges were filed against two of the four in the military court in Lod today. The two are 'Abd al-Qadir Shaldah from Al-Tur, member of the Popular Front, and Sam'an Bishara Sam'an Khuri from Bayt Hanina, member of the Democratic Front. The other two are members of Fatah and the Palestinian Communist Party. The charge sheet states that approximately 5 months ago the four began planning to disseminate leaflets calling for stepping up demonstrations, stone-throwing, and Molotov cocktail incidents, as well as attacks on Israel Defense Forces soldiers.

Immigrant Sentenced for Passing PLO Information

TA1204110589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Binyamin Shenkman, who was indicted 2 weeks ago for traveling to Greece in January 1989 and passing details of his military service and other information to PLO representatives in Athens, was sentenced today to 3 years in prison as part of a plea bargain.

In his defense speech, Attorney Asaf Komornik said that Shenkman had encountered difficulties upon arriving in Israel as an immigrant from the Soviet Union 10 years ago. He further claimed that his client's low salary forced him to seek additional sources of income, as a result of which he attempted to trade secrets for money. [passage omitted]

Police Leader on Temple Mount Measures, Sicarii

TA1204141889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Report by Moshe Nussbaum]

[Excerpts] The police commissioner, who held a news conference, termed last Friday's riot on the Temple Mount one of the gravest incidents in Jerusalem since 1967. Commissioner David Kraus said that police forces would therefore be beefed up this Friday and that special measures would be taken before prayers.

[Begin recording] [Kraus] The police are considering taking several measures to ensure that those who plan to go to the Temple Mount and cause disturbances will not do so during prayers. For that purpose, we will carry out much more intensive searches among known disturbers of the peace and those who have been involved in such incidents in the past. This will include searches and confiscation of identity cards to help us deal with disturbances if they occur. [passage omitted]

If it turns out that inside the mosques there are weapons, such as stones, sticks, bottles, and so forth, we will not hesitate to enter them to prevent people from taking the weapons out.

[Nussbaum] How do you intend to protect worshippers at the Wailing Wall? How do you plan to prevent the Temple Mount worshippers from throwing stones at the Wailing Wall?

[Kraus] We will deploy beefed-up forces near the spot from which the stones were thrown last time. The Waqf will also deploy people there to prevent stone throwing. If that does not help, we will also take physical steps so that people will not throw stones from the Temple Mount at the Wailing Wall. [end recording]

On the murder at Jaffa Gate on Sunday night, Jerusalem Police Commander Yosef Yehuday and Rehamim Komfort, commander of the Southern District, said that of the five suspects questioned so far, only one was detained; he, too, was released today. All the suspects so far were apparently not linked to the incident.

On the Sicarii, the police commissioner said the police know about the organization only from their telephone calls; that is, only because they present themselves as such. The issue is under professional investigation; we do not have any findings yet, only certain lines of investigation, Commissioner Kraus said. He said it is too early to say whether there is such an organization and who the members are.

IDF Reports 333 Killed by Gunfire

TA1204092889 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 12 Apr 89 p 5

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 10 April, an Israel Defense Forces [IDF] spokesman reported that 333 Palestinians had been killed in the occupied territories. The number includes casualties of IDF gunfire only.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE count, the number of fatalities stands at 443.

Palestinian sources, however, report that the number is 553 according to the following breakdown:

—375 killed by IDF and settlers' gunfire.

—45 killed through beatings and electrocution.

—74 killed by tear-gas inhalation.

—59 killed by other causes.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Riots, Strikes Reported in Gaza

TA1104185589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Today there were disturbances in various parts of the Gaza Strip during the general strike marking the 1-year anniversary of the deportation of Shaykh Khalil Hammad al-Quqa, an activist of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. Arab sources say that seven people were wounded in violent clashes between soldiers and rioters. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports, however, that according to military sources only one person was wounded.

In East Jerusalem and Hebron, there were also strikes today to mourn the murder near Jaffa Gate yesterday.

Funeral Participant Injured

TA1104185389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The police have arrested three people in connection with yesterday's machinegun attack near Jaffa Gate. This afternoon, 26-year-old Khalid al-Shawish, who was killed in the attack, was buried. Shlomo Berger reports: [passage omitted]

About 1,000 people participated in the funeral, some of them wearing masks and carrying PLO flags. As the procession passed the Temple Mount, a few participants threw stones at the local police station. Several windows were shattered. The police fired rubber bullets and one of

the stone throwers was injured. Outside of this incident, the funeral passed quietly. Khalid al-Shawish was buried at the Muslim cemetery next to Lions Gate.

'Fatah Cell' Uncovered

TA1204090389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] A Fatah cell was uncovered in recent days in the village of Al-Taiyiba in a joint effort of the security forces and the Sharon District Police. The five-member cell was exposed before it could carry out terrorist acts.

Squad leader 'Abd al-Halim Hajj Ihya', 24, was recruited to the Fatah abroad, after which he returned to Israel to organize a local network. The squad intended to perpetrate terrorist acts against civilian and military targets with weapons they planned to obtain from criminal circles.

The squad members will soon stand trial in the Lod military court.

Curfew Imposed in Tulkarm

TA1204095089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Excerpt] A short while ago the Israel Defense Forces imposed curfews on most Tulkarm neighborhoods following demonstrations and riots which erupted following news about the murder of 80-year-old 'Abd al-Hafiz Jallad. The residents said that the murderer, a youth from the Balatah refugee camp, is known for collaboration with the Israeli authorities.

Our correspondent Arye Gus had earlier reported that the youth, who is mentally deficient, was staying with Tulkarm friends. [passage omitted]

2 Injured by IDF in Gaza

TA1204113289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Two youths were injured this morning by Israel Defense Forces gunfire in stone-throwing incidents in the Al-Shati' refugee camp in Gaza. Our correspondent Arye Gus notes that Gaza sources have also reported widespread disturbances in the Jabalyah refugee camp.

At the archeological site of Khirbat Abu al-Sus in southern Hebron Hills, an electricity generator was set on fire last night.

Rabbi Charged With Homicide

TA1204130189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Charges including homicide, causing injury, and damage to property were filed today in Jerusalem District Court against Hebron Rabbi Moshe Levinger. According to the charges, the Levingers were driving through Hebron when a stone was thrown at their car, shattering its windshield. Although the area was teeming with people, Rabbi Levinger left his car and began firing in every direction, killing shoe salesman Qa'id Salah and wounding a customer. Later, Rabbi Levinger overturned fruit stalls.

Reacting to the charges, Rabbi Levinger said that his file was returned to the police several months ago after no evidence could be found. The subsequent pressing of charges against him, an about-face from the previous decision, was merely the result of pressures exerted by left-wing Knesset members. He told our correspondent Moti Amir that the defense minister, who is responsible for the fact that the uprising has not been quelled, should stand trial in his place. The minister's activities are graver than those attributed to Ari'el Sharon, who was deposed from his post as defense minister because of them, added Rabbi Levinger.

Bomb Safely Dismantled

TA1204162189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] This afternoon a bomb was discovered in Moshav Ram On in the Ta'anakhim region; it was found near a pump by a Moshav member reporting for work. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the bomb was safely dismantled by police bomb disposal experts. Eight suspects have been detained for interrogation.

Cabinet Briefed on IMF Talks, Approves Financing

JN0904110589 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0910 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Amman, 9 Apr (PETRA)—The cabinet met last night under Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, during which it was briefed on the negotiations between the government and the IMF representatives which are proceeding normally and satisfactorily.

The cabinet also heard a report from the minister of tourism on tourism during the current season, the full hotels, the flourishing foreign tourism to Jordan, and the measures the ministry intends to take to improve the tourisitic facilities in the Kingdom.

The cabinet also approved the agreement according to which the World Bank will provide $67 million to finance the educational development project, which includes the following:

1. Building and furnishing compulsory and secondary schools to replace rented buildings and provide for the increased number of students.

2. Improving and developing the production and use of school books and establishing a special printing unit for them.

3. Re-educating the supervising teachers through improving the training possibilities in the Ministry of Education, setting up specialised colleges in Amman, Irbid, and Karak, and increasing the capabilities of the Jordan, Yarmuk, and Mu'tah Universities.

4. Developing certain vocational training centers and setting up new centers.

5. Developing education technology by establishing laboratories, libraries, and teaching methods in existing schools.

6. Developing educational programs in compulsory and secondary schools.

7. Establishing a national center for research and education development.

The cabinet also discussed the draft law on standardization and metrology prepared by the Ministry of Trade and Industry whose basic goal is to develop a system of standardization and metrology in the Kingdom to achieve and guarantee the good quality of Jordanian products in accordance with the most modern international standards, to develop Jordanian industries, guarantee their high quality, and provide competitiveness in the export markets.

Al-Rifa'i Briefs Bankers on IMF Talks

JN1004135889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] A meeting chaired by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and attended by the Central Bank governor and all bank and financial firm general managers and directors general operating in the Kingdom was held at the Prime Ministry last night.

Opening the meeting, the prime minister reviewed the outcome of the talks held between the Jordanian Government and the International Monetary Fund [IMF]. The IMF delegation was said to have noted that the current exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar is realistic and proper and there is no need for it to be readjusted. The IMF team also lauded the corrective measures and policies adopted by the government since fall last year, stressing that they were in the right direction.

The prime minister acquainted the participants with the outcome of the talks with the IMF regarding the adoption of a medium-range economic readjustment program. The two sides are on the verge of finalizing this program on which a letter of intent is to be signed in the coming few days. The program calls for the adoption of monetary, financial, and investmental policies aimed to achieve a balanced growth of the Jordanian economy by reducing the budget deficit and improving the balance of payments as well as building up the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves and creating the right climate for savings and investment to invigorate the productive projects and raise the earnings from foreign currency through increased exports, tourist revenues, and expatriate remittances.

Al-Rifa'i stressed the important role which the commercial banks must play especially at this juncture by mobilizing national savings and directing them toward productive investment by the private sector and facilitating public accessibility to legitimate foreign currency needs. In this regard, the attendees stressed their commitment to the current Jordanian dinar exchange rate. It was also agreed that the board of directors of the Jordanian Banks Association hold a meeting to look at all related matters and to provide superior services to the general public and that whatever suggestions and recommendations are made be submitted to the General Assembly of the bank society and the Central Bank.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the attendees thanked the prime minister for giving them this opportunity and briefing them on the readjustment program worked out with the IMF in view of its importance and favorable implications for the investment climate as well as enhancing confidence in Jordan's economy. They also expressed their support for the government's economic policies and its corrective moves in various economic areas. They emphasized their responsiveness to the government's economic endeavors and their full abidance by whatever is agreed upon.

Iranian Revolution Guards To Confront French
NC1104193389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] The London-based newspaper AL-HAYAH reports that Iran has sent approximately 1,000 Revolution Guards to Lebanon to help the Muslims confront the new French aggression, as the newspaper termed it. The newspaper cites Iranian and Arab sources as saying that Tehran has chosen these combatants, who have received training in suicide operations, from among the members of the special Iranian forces. The sources add that these combatants speak Arabic and know Lebanon well, having been sent to intervene in the country before.

French Hospital Ship Arrives in Cyprus
NC1204094389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] The French hospital ship "Rance" arrived in Larnaca sea port in Cyprus this morning. The ship was supposed to arrive in Lebanon today to transport 30 injured persons and 80 children from different Lebanese areas.

Nationalist Parties Warn France on 'Unsafe' Areas
NC1104172189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] The nationalist and progressive parties and forces have warned French officials of the consequences of stubborness over entering the areas that have been declared unsafe. They said that the French insistence on interfering in Lebanese affairs, under the pretext of presenting alleged humanitarian aid, does not deceive anybody. They emphasized that they will not allow the continued arming of the Al-Yarzah Army, whose commanders have persisted in wrecking Lebanon and in undermining it.

Junblatt Holds 11 Apr News Conference in Beirut
NC1104201889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt held a news conference at his residence in Beirut today. He began the news conference by saying: I wish to clarify one point, namely, that I am in solidarity with my colleagues in the nationalist government, the government of Prime Minister Salim al-Huss.

I did not attend the cabinet session today because the French minister was there. I passed the area, and his car was there. I did not meet the French ambassador and refuse to meet him or any other official until the French Government apologizes to the Arab people in Lebanon for the statements made by the Gaullist fool who has insulted the Arab people everywhere, the Lebanese people, and Bani Ma'ruf. I am proud to belong to the Bani Ma'ruf tribe which destroyed the French in jabal al-'Arab. I am proud to be a grandson of Sultan Pasha al-Atrash and Salih al-'Ali who raised the Arab banner and removed French occupation from syrian soil. Bani Ma'ruf has accepted nothing but the Arab banner in Lebanon. If they want a Crusade, then we, the descendants of Saladin, are ready for it.

Asked if his attitude toward France is a personal one, Junblatt said: The question is not a personal one. It is an insult to the Lebanese people, to the Druze, and to every Arab nationalist. This stand is firm until the French Government apologizes. The French position was known when France was forced out of Syria. French Envoy Jean-Francois Deniau expresses past hatred and spite. The story is an old one and goes back to the days of the Crusaders when Gouraud [French general during mandate—FBIS] came to Saladin's grave and said: We have returned after 800 years. We say we have now returned. The French mentality is known. It is spiteful toward Lebanon, Syria, and the Arabs.

Asked about the change in the French position, Junblatt said: We will see when they silence Deniau. The insult is a public one. When asked whether the French ships should enter [the Christian-held ports—FBIS] and what the stand would be, he said: We are against the entry of any ship. We do not need the fuel. They have fuel in the eastern areas. They have electricity for six hours, while we have it for only 40 minutes. The political issue might be followed by a military intervention reminiscent of 1860. The government position is clear, and the position of Major General Sami al-Khatib is clear. Junblatt added: We are willing to facilitate the evacuation of the injured to hospitals.

Regarding the Americans' attempt to improve the image of Michel 'Awn and their calling on him to present a reformist plan, Junblatt said: There is no scope for reforms within the military clique. This is rejected. There is a contradiction between democracy and military dictatorship. There is no solution except to bring down the military clique. He was asked: about those who speak of banking on forces in the eastern area. He replied: I have not heard of this.

On the Bkirki statement, Junblatt said I support one specific point; namely, that which concerns discussions between the Lebanese and Syrian Governments on the issue of a Syrian withdrawal but only after the Israeli withdrawal. Furthermore, Patriarch Sfayr refuses to relinquish his privileges.

In reply to question on why he accepts Syrian support and opposes those asking for French support, Junblatt answered: We are at a loss with the Christians. No one denies the favors done by the Syrians for the Christians. [former President Ilyas] Sarkis came to power with the support of the Syrian tank. Six years later, Amin al-Jumayyil entered [the presidential palace] by the Israeli tank. Then they brought in the French and the Americans. They did all this to avoid reforms and for the sake of Bkirki's privileges, in fact.

'Awn Holds News Conference on French Stand, Syrians

NC1204163589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has stated that the French stand has not changed and we must not confuse the political position with the aid issue. He added that France has not changed its mind about sending this aid, but is trying to include all the parties in Lebanon in it. He blamed France, however, saying that permission for sending this aid should not be requested from a murderer.

In a news conference he held this afternoon, 'Awn said that if humanitarian aid is linked to certain conditions it becomes unhumanitarian. He described the conditions which have been set as valueless and said they constitute a violation of all internatio[illegible]' norms and charters.

He declared that the French position has not been influenced by the U.S. position, emphasizing that the Lebanese Government is not asking the countries of the world to do anything more than implement resolutions for which they have voted. He added that Deniau spoke enthusiastically of Lebanon because he witnessed what was happening here. 'Awn said: We blame the Arab Committee because it did not come to Lebanon to see what is happening.

'Awn described the Syrian occupation as a total occupation, and said it is a flagrant aggression against Lebanon. He warned against the Syrian naval presence, saying it might complicate matters and lead to intervention by other powers and the closure of the remaining ports.

'Awn described the Soviet position as positive and neutral, and tending to be friendly. He said: I believe that the Soviets are coordinating their positions with Europe.

On the liberation process, 'Awn said this matter requires the mobilization of all of the state's capabilities. He expressed hope that young men who wish to participate in any field of endeavor they choose will volunteer their services.

Salim al-Huss Receives French Envoy 11 Apr

NC1104152789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] At his residence today, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss received Bernard Kouchner, French secretary of state for humanitarian action. Afterward, a meeting was held between the two in the presence of Ambassadors Salah Sutaytiyah and Fawzi Sallukh and Jabal 'Amil Foundation Chairman Dr Kamil Muhanna.

After the meeting, Kouchner said that the French aid is meant for all Lebanese. Responding to a question, Kouchner said: There are no guarantees at present that the two French ships will anchor at Juniyah and Al-Duq Ports.

French Envoy's Visit to Al-Huss 'Shy Attempt'

NC1104153589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Political sources have viewed the visit made by Bernard Kouchner, French secretary of state for humanitarian action, to Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss as a slow step and a shy attempt to rescue France's reputation and absolve it of its biased and unbalanced policy in Lebanon.

The same sources said: It is not required that statements be made but that an official French position be adopted, represented by a retraction of all the statements and measures that have made France fall into the trap of partiality.

French Envoy Kouchner on Deniau, Ships

NC1104183489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] A tangible retreat has become apparent in the French position regarding recent developments in Lebanon, especially after the meeting between Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Bernard Kouchner, French secretary of state for humanitarian action. Kouchner has stated that he is contacting his government to issue a statement affirming that what Jean-Francois Deniau says does not represent the French Government or French foreign policy.

Regarding the French ships expected to arrive in Lebanon tomorrow, Kouchner said that the ships, which are carrying aid, will remain in the high seas until an agreement on how they will enter port is reached with the French Government.

Ba'th Party Command Rejects French Aid

NC1104122389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] The regional command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon has reiterated its rejection of the suspect French assistance and affirmed the need to confront the warships which are carrying this aid to the 'Awn clique, irrespective of the consequences.

In a statement it issued following its meeting today, the regional command warned against any foolish action which may be taken by the Zionist and racist circles in the French administration, recalling the outcome of the intervention of the Multinational Forces.

The Ba'th Party Command expressed its total rejection of the internationalization of the Lebanese crisis and called for supporting the Arab initiative which can deal with the Lebanese crisis.

The regional command noted the need to continue efforts to put an end to the mad war which was started by 'Awn and the Zionist Lebanese forces against all groups of the Lebanese people.

Interior Minister on French Envoy's Remarks

NC0904161089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi has criticized French envoy Jean-Francois Deniau's statements and his assertion that Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss is not free in his actions. Asked his opinion of Deniau's remarks, Al-Rasi said: No one in Lebanon or elsewhere can better the nationalist stands that Prime Minister al-Huss has adopted and is adopting, and no one can outdo him in the courage he has shown in adopting these positions, which stem only from his convictions.

Minister al-Rasi added: I consider that by his remarks Deniau has far exceeded the diplomatic norms and the customary rules that govern the behavior of an envoy—an envoy who came, as he himself said, to help all of Lebanon and to find a solution involving all the parties in Lebanon.

On France's dispatch of ships carrying aid to Lebanon, Dr al-Rasi said: We believe that France does not and will not differentiate among the Lebanese in allocating medical aid and fuel oil, because that would be contrary to French democratic principles. While thanking the French Government for such aid, we stress that it must be distributed fairly, especially as all areas have sustained damage and casualties as a result of the exchange of shelling.

Minister al-Rasi stated: We draw the attention of the French officials to a very important matter; namely, our request to them not to procrastinate in providing humanitarian aid by means of the ships which will be carrying medical supplies and fuel. If the objective behind the dispatch of these ships which fly the French flag is to lift the blockades, then the blockade should be lifted from both areas and not only from one, as well as from all the ports and not only from one port. Very frankly and sincerely, we hope that the French officials will be aware of this fact so that the French initiative may not miss its humanitarian objectives.

Syrians Asked To Stop Shelling From Mountain

NC1204152289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] The attacks on the eastern areas continue and are being directed at various targets. Meanwhile, clashes are taking place on the capital's combat lines where the fighting is intermittently flaring up and then abating.

The treacherous Syrian bombardment was stepped up at 1600 today when areas in central and coastal Kasrawan, coastal Al-Matn, Al-Hazimiyah, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, B'abda, and Al-Ashrafiyah were hit.

The bombardment of these areas is accompanied by fighting along the capital's combat lines in the markets areas, Sodeco, Al-Birjawi, the museum, the racecourse, Al-Tayyuni, and Dar al-Kitab.

According to the latest report, five shells fell in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, and the Kasrawan coast is presently the target of sporadic Syrian bombardment.

In another development, informed sources have revelaed that Walid Junblatt, submitting to pressures from Druze figures, has asked the Syrian leadership to halt its bombardment of the eastern areas from emplacements in the mountain areas. Consequently, the shelling of the eastern areas is now noticeably coming from West Beirut. This has caused increasing resentment among the citizens of West Beirut.

In an attempt to cover up for the Syrian aggression, and while the shells were falling on the eastern areas, Brigadier General al-Khatib's command accused the Lebanese Army of starting the shelling. This command named the areas which it claimed had been shelled. They are Al-Rawshah, the military beach, Al-Ramlah al-Bayda', Al-Tariq al-Jadidah, 'Ayn al-Muraysah, Qasqas, Suq al-Rawshah, and the Amir Bashir Barracks vicinity. Al-Khatib's command announced that two people were killed by the shelling and 10 others wounded.

Statement by Al-Khatib Command on Shelling

NC1204142689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Statement issued by the Guidance Directorate of the Army Command in Beirut]

[Text] The artillery of Al-Yarzah surprised the populated areas of West Beirut with a violent and concentrated bombardment by 155-mm field artillery, which caused great damage. This was the most serious violation of the cease-fire since 5 April.

The bombardment began at 0930 today, intensified at 1230, and is still going on until this minute. The shelling has included the areas of Al-Rawshah, the military beach, Al-Ramlah al-Bayda', Al-Tariq al-Jadidah, 'Ayn al-Muraysah, Qasqas, the new Suq al-Rawshah, and the Amir Bashir Barracks vicinity.

Preliminary figures state that two persons were killed and more than 10 people injured in this shelling. There has also been heavy material damage.

Our forces have been compelled to fire at the sources of shelling to silence them.

Dany Sham'un Regrets U.S. Stand

NC1104125589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Eng Dany Sham'un, leader of the National Liberal Party, has expressed regret over the U.S. position, regarding it as submission to terrorism. He accused the United States of not understanding the just issues and of overlooking humanitarian and international values.

Sham'un has asked: How can the U.S. Administration conceive of a solution reached among the Lebanese themselves while they are under the burden of hegemony and open interference in the internal Lebanese affairs, which takes the form of frenzied shelling of the Lebanese areas by the syrian occupation Army?

The NLP leader expressed surprise at demands to divert the two French ships to Latakia port, or to any port under Syrian control. He believes that this means a rejection of any assistance to Lebanon other than that which comes through the Syrians. He said that this represents a new form of Syrian mandate over Lebanon.

Speaker Al-Husayni Leaves for Damascus

NC1204103789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni left for Damascus this morning to hold discussions with Syrian officials regarding various Lebanese developments.

Shaykh Sha'ban Returns From Tehran; Warns France

NC1204074589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of tahe Islamic Unification Movement, has accused France of trying to supply arms to Michel 'Awn, head of the military government under the cover of medical assistance. He asked: How can France allow itself to interfere in Lebanese affairs to help the Maronite sect while preventing Syria from helping a Muslim Arab people?

His Eminence Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, who returned from Tehran yesterday, has warned France against interference in Lebanese affairs, reminding it of the mujahid who blew up the French center in Beirut in 1983 and of his brothers who are always ready to take his example.

Shells Reportedly Fall Around Government House

NC1204113989 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Excerpt] The 'Awn-Ja'ja' clique has continued its attacks on residential areas in West Beirut and the mountain. The 'Awn-Ja'ja' artillery began its treacherous shelling of the residential neighborhoods in Wadi Abu Jamil and 'Ayn al-Muraysah at 0900 today. The scope of shelling then extended at noon to the Al-Shuwayfat, Dawhat 'Aramun, and Khalidah areas which came under random 120-mm artillery fire from the 'Awn-Ja'ja' artillery emplacements in B'abda, Kafr Shima, and Al-Mansuriyah.

A few minutes ago, artillery shells fell in the vicinity of the Government House, in the Al-Sana'i' area. [passage omitted]

RFL: Scope of Syrian Shelling Expands

NC1204100289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0925 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] The Syrian attacks against the Christian areas are continuing. A Syrian rocket launcher fired several projectiles at the Al-Matn coast a short while ago. Some shells had fallen on the Al-Matn coast earlier. One shell fell on the outskirts of Al-Asrafiyah.

Syrians Fire on Army Positions in Suq al-Gharb

NC1204075589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0737 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Here is a report from the news desk: The Lebanese Army positions in the Suq al-gharb are coming under fire from various caliber artillery shells, of between 82-mm and 120-mm. It is worth noting that these Syrian attacks began immediately upon the departure of the Lebanese Front delegation to Kuwait.

Beirut Shelled; Helicopters Fly Over Suq al-Gharb

NC1204083789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] We were informed a short while ago that a number of shells have fallen on the military beach and Al-Rawshah areas in West Beirut.

Security sources in the mountain area have reported that two helicopters had flown over the Suq al-Gharb area. Shimlan is currently coming under artillery fire.

The latest security reports have indicated that guarded calm prevails along the traditional combat lines in Beirut and the southern suburb, except for some sniper fire and rockets directed at areas adjacent to the old commerical center in Beirut. The crossing between the two sectors of Beirut remain closed.

Mountain, W. Beirut Shelled

NC1204103389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] The 'Awn-Ja'ja' miliia continue their treacherous intermittent shelling of various areas on the mountain and in West Beirut. The city of Al-Shuwayfat, Dawhat 'Aramun, and Khaldah are being subjected to indiscriminate shelling from B'abda, Kafr Shima, and Al-Mansuriyah. Shells are falling intermittently on Wadi Abu Jamil and 'Ayn al-Muraysah streets.

The areas of Al-Hamra, military beach, Al-Rawshah, and Wadi Abu Jamil were the target of similar shelling between 0930 and 1015.

In the meantime, guarded calm prevails along the mountain combat lines following the shelling of Shimlan, Kayfun, Baysur, and 'Aytat.

Syrian Shelling Kills 1 Person, Wounds 4 Others

NC1204112589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1035 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Excerpt] The port of Beirut is now coming under artillery fire from Syrian emplacements in the western area. It is also the target of anti-armor bullets. Violent clashes are now raging in the markets area and the adjacent eastern residential areas are coming under shelling and heavy sniper fire. As a result of the Syrian shelling of the residential areas, four persons were wounded and one was killed. [passage omitted]

B'abda, Al-Yarzah Areas Included in Syrian Shelling

NC1204114189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1111 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] The Syrian occupation forces' artillery is still directing its salvos at the Christian areas. We have just been informed that the coastal Al-Matn region is coming under heavy artillery fire. The areas of B'abda, Al-Fayyadiyah, and Al-Yarzah have been the target of Syrian shelling since 1145 this morning.

Eastern Areas Shelled; Casualties Noted

NC1204160389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Violent clashes continued throughout this afternoon on the traditional combat lines, accompanied by bombardment of areas deep within the eastern areas. The shells fell indiscriminately on Furn al-Shubbak, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, B'abda, Al-Hadath, Al-Jumhur, Al-Fayyadiyah, Al-Ashrafiyah, Badaru, Al-'Adliyah, and the coastal areas of Al-Matn and Kasrawan. Meanwhile, the usual shelling of the port of Beirut continued.

The fighting on the capital's combat lines extended as far as the southern suburb and light fighting was also reported on the Suq al-Gharb lines. Shells fell in the residential areas facing the contact lines.

The victims of the bombardment of the eastern areas include two people who were killed while riding in a Renault 12 on Camille Sham'un Boulevard, one of which was Sergeant Major Antoine Haddad. Other citizens killed by the shelling were Tawfiq Iskandar 'Azuri and Graciella Kokozakis. Damien Indrawis Khujah, Joseph Shafiq 'Id, and Ronnie Milad Tannus are among those who were injured in the attacks.

Beirut Port Shelled; Clashes in Old Center

NC1204100389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 0942 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] The Syrian random bombardment of Christian regions continues. A short while ago, several projectiles crashed on the compound of the port of Beirut while several others fell on the coastal region of the north Al-Matn District. Meanwhile, reports speak of clashes along the demarcation lines of the old commercial center of the capital.

Syrians Bombard Merchant Ships; Sporadic Clashes

NC1104181389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The Suq al-Gharb combat lines have been the scene of clashes since this afternoon. The clashes involving rocket fire became violent from 1500 to 1515 and from 1745 to 1805 today. The fighting is still sporadic. [passage omitted]

The Syrians also escalated the situation on the market area combat lines in the center of the capital where clashes with machineguns and rockets occurred at noon today. The fighting was accompanied by the bombardment of some adjacent residential areas in East Beirut. The outskirts of 'Ayn al-Rummanah were the target of intensive sniper fire.

Artillery emplacements belonging to the Syrian occupation forces in Al-Madfun shelled two merchant ships which were sailing from the port of Beirut to the port of Sil'ata. The ships, 5 miles from shore, were not hit.

Al-Asad, CSSR's Jakes Hold ... d Meeting 11 Apr
JN1104162789 Damascus Domesti... Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad ... and Comrade Milos Jakes, general secretary of the ... Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, held a third sessi... on this afternoon. The meeting was attended by the C... echoslovak party and government delegation.

On the Syrian side, it was atter... ded by Dr Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secreta... y general of the Ba'th Party; Mahmud Qaddur, deput... prime minister for services affairs; Faruq al-Shar'... minister of foreign affairs; Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi ... minister of economy and foreign trade; Antoine Jubran ... minister of industrial affairs; Nasir Qaddur, minister ... of state for foreign affairs; Dia'ullah al-Fattal, assista... ant to the foreign minister; and Dr Taha Bali, assistant to the minister of economy and foreign trade.

During this session and the mor... ing session, they discussed the situation in the interna... ional arena, the European Continent, and the Middle ... East. They also discussed bilateral relations and agr... eed to promote them. Then stressed the need to use ... all available means to promote and develop cooperation ... and friendly relations in all areas.

'Awn's 'Internationalization' o... Crisis Condemned
JN1104152689 Damascus Domesti... Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Those followi... g the course of events in Lebanon are not hiding their ... fears over a wide-scale explosion of the situation. This ... is because the military clique controling the destinies o... f the citizens in East Beirut has not retreated at all fro... m its scheme of destruction. In fact, it has not to this moment adhered to the cease-fire issued by the Arab ministerial committee, to which the national forces respon... ded.

It is known that the committee ask... ed that the siege of the ports be lifted and that the s... ecurity committee be revived. With this, it pushed the military clique to the wall. This clique thought it co... uld exploit the Arab committee's efforts to benefit its ... schemes. The results were the exact opposite.

The meeting between the comm... ittee and the national forces dotted the i's and crossed ... the t's and confirmed beyond a shadow of a doubt the ... concern of the national forces over rendering the efforts ... of the committee successful in a way enabling it to cont... inue its task. It became clear to the committee that ther... e is no solution to the crisis without achieving the aspir... ed for reforms. Therefore, it called for the cease-fire w... ith the aim of creating the appropriate climate for an ... in-depth dialogue over political reform.

It is clear that the military clique, after failing to rally round the efforts of the Arab committee, seeks today to internationalize the crisis, back itself up by foreign sides, and use foreign forces, if possible. This explains the large-scale campaign against the national forces, Al-Huss' legitimate government, and Syria's salvational role. It also explains the increasing talk about the danger threatening the Christian existence with the aim of shuffling the cards and misleading world public opinion.

The military clique, which did not at all adhere to the cease-fire, is continuing with its scheme to distort facts and events and attempting to portray what is happening as a Syrian-Lebanese conflict or a conflict between the Christians and Muslims. Bear in mind that the Syrian forces did not participate in the fighting. Syria did not respond to the increasing provocations of 'Awn's Zionized clique, no fewer than half the Christian citizens live in the national areas, and the crisis is not one of Muslim-Christian coexistence.

It is a crisis of the hegemony of a vindictive group, bound to the Israeli enemy, over the destinies of the citizens in the eastern part; usurpation of authority; destruction of constitutional and democratic life; and attempts to explode the dispute among the Lebanese on secterian bases. This will serve the interests of Israel's strategy, which is to tear apart and balkanize the region and establish sectarian statelets constantly at war with each other, thus enabling the enemy to spread its control and continue its expansionist schemes without fearing that the national current will deter it. When the region is drowned in sectarian disputes, it becomes easy for Israel to realize its well known ambitions.

Because the Arab committee put its finger on the fault—and it is impossible for an Arab faithful to his nation to forfeit the Arab identity and pan-Arab belonging of Lebanon and its role amidst its family—the Zionized military clique intentionally sent fake calls for help, urged vindictive foreign sides, and played on the endangered Christian existence in an attempt to internationalize the crisis. Thus, it sought to end the Arab role, which cannot be anything but a support for the Syrian salvational role. It is natural that when the military clique rejects the principle of dialogue, reform, and national accord, it has not found before it any method other than escalation. This is what the observers expect.

Despite that, the military clique finds itself in a very tight corner, because the game will be revealed soon. The solution to the crisis is known. Internationalization failed before and will fail now. The Lebanese will not submit to the tyranny of a group that is an agent bound to the enemy and working toward demolishing the nation.

Press Criticizes French Stand on Lebanon

JN1204093289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Apr 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Isolationist Maneuvers and the Arab Committee," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: When the Arab committee asked 'Awn to disavow his provocative measures which ignited the fierce conflict in the Lebanese arena, 'Awn and those who support him relinquished their Arab identity, retreated from support for the Arab League committee, and sought to internationalize the Lebanese crisis.

Certain French political and media circles received the slogan of internationalization with great enthusiasm and sought to peddle this slogan on the international level. To achieve this objective, some sides organized a campaign of slander against facts and the true situation in Lebanon. The leading French news media and newspapers abandoned their alleged objectivity and launched a comprehensive rancorous attack against Syria and the Lebanese nationalist parties. The features of the colonialist policy began to emerge from Paris, which led a diplomatic campaign to gain world support for internationalizing the situation in Lebanon.

The Lebanese facts say that political sectarianism, which brought catastrophes to the Lebanese, has gone forever and has been overtaken by events and developments and that the group that had received privileges from French colonialism should prepare itself to relinquish these privileges. False pride is useless. In fact, it prolongs the life of the tragedy that could become a true catastrophe for those who refuse to equate themselves with the rest of the Lebanese people.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Finally, the Lebanese situation says that the isolationist clique's wagering on a military option to decide the situation has gone forever, that the balance of power is no longer in their favor, and that the only remaining option for them is dialogue and accord with the majority of the Lebanese people who seek to build a unified Lebanon, which is free of injustice, coercion, and the hated Zionist and sectarian hegemony.

On the same subject and under the headline "France and the Attempts To Sabotage the Arab Role," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: France has a role and no one can deny its role. This is if this role is in the interest of Lebanon and its security.

However, this role, which the French Government did not show with such determination against the Zionist invasion of Lebanon and the daily Zionist shelling of the Lebanese cities and villages, refutes in part and parcel all the French claims of showing concern for Lebanon and its citizens.

French credibility should be characterized by dissociating itself from the inclination of the colonialist past, by basically punishing Israel, and then by encouraging the Arab initiative to settle the Lebanese crisis, and not by sabotaging it.

Afghanistan

Official Says U.S. Must Change Hostile Attitude

BK1104133889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1313 GMT 11 Apr 89

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] Kabul, April 11 (AFP)—The United Nations will be powerless to help stop the escalating war in Afghanistan unless Washington changes its "attitude of hostility" and plays its part as a guarantor of the Geneva accords, Vice-President 'Abdul Hamid Mohtat said Tuesday.

"Because of the hostile position of the United States we are not optimistic of a special resolution on Afghanistan" emerging from the current U.N. session, Mr. Mohtat said in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

He was speaking as the U.N. Security Council under Soviet chairmanship was preparing to debate the Afghan issue for the first time since the February 15 Soviet troop withdrawal which was followed by a dramatic escalation in fighting in the country's east along the border with Pakistan.

"The most we can hope for is that our voice will be heard," Mr. Mohatat said, adding that in March and April the fighting had escalated into "a war without human logic" in which both sides used any weapon it could lay its hands on.

Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil, who took Afghanistan's case to the United Nations, said on his departure he would seek a review of the Geneva accords and a special Security Council meeting on what he termed "unprecedented" Pakistani military participation in the five-week long battle of Jalalabad.

Pakistan and Afghanistan were the signatories of the Geneva peace accords one year ago next Friday, with the United States and the Soviet Union as guarantors.

Mr. Mohtat, who is vice-president for foreign affairs, said that since February 15 the United Nations Good Offices Mission for Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP), the U.N. body charged with monitoring the implementation of the accords, had "been able to do nothing, it has been passive."

"In this situation we have no alternative than to use our whole defence potential, tanks, Scud missiles, rockets. Jalalabad will not fall, it will be defended, how long the fight will go on will depend on the other side—maybe two months, maybe three," he said.

Eyewitnesses returning to Kabul from Jalalabad have said that civilian casualties have run into the thousands, and that almost no building in the city, some 80 miles (130 kilometres) from Kabul, has been left undamaged in the siege which began March 5, 18 days after the Soviet troop withdrawal was completed.

Mujahidin rebels, backed by the U.S. and Pakistan, had hoped to effect a quick capture of the city to use it as a capital for an interim government inside Afghan territory as an alternative to the Soviet-backed government in Kabul they have been been fighting for the past ten years.

The escalation in the fighting "is happening, but it is not our fault", Mr. Mohtat said, adding that the Geneva accords appeared to be "nothing more than paper" because allegations of Pakistani involvement in Jalalabad could not be checked and acted upon.

"We believe that if there were goodwill on the part of the big powers, especially the United States, there could be peace in Afghanistan," he said.

"The U.S. supplies 90 percent of the arms to the rebels. There are other countries involved like Britain and France .... But if the U.S. stops its arms supplies, the others will do the same."

Mr. Mohtat was expressing a widely held belief here that the U.N.-brokered Geneva accords were signed by the U.S. and Pakistan only to ensure the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

The accords provide for Afghanistan and Pakistan not to interfere in one another's internal affairs and for Moscow and Washington to help promote peace between the warring sides.

Since the Soviet withdrawal arms and equipment have continued to pour in from both the Soviet Union and the United States, with Washington charging that Moscow had been heavily stockpiling in Kabul before the withdrawal.

Referring to Nicaragua, where a possible mutual reduction of assistance to warring sides has been proposed by the U.S. and taken under consideration by the Soviet Union, Mr. Mohtat said:

"What interests is that it was the U.S. that presented the plan to Nicaragua and the USSR has shown interest, but in the case of Afghanistan the U.S. has done nothing." [sentence as received]

Like Foreign Minister Wakil, he said that in the light of the fact that all Western predictions that the mujahidin would be able to take over the country after the withdrawal, Washington should "change its military analysis" of the siuation here.

Although the mujahidin are attacking areas along the Pakistan border "it is not easy for them to capture a city," Mr. Mohtat said, adding that areas far from the border were relatively free of fighting.

(Soviet journalists who arrived in Kabul Monday said they were unable to travel over the Salang road, the so-called lifeline which links the Soviet border to the Afghan capital, because it was closed by rebel activity.

(In addition an AFP journalist at the Kabul end of the Salang road Monday saw a downed government helicopter gunship and was told no food or fuel convoys had been able to reach Kabul that day.)

"Two months have passed (since the withdrawal). The experience of Jalalabad has shown us (the government of President Najibullah) that we are capable of defending our border areas," Mr. Mohtat said.

He again urged the U.S. Administration, Senate or Congress to send a fact-finding mission to Afghanistan "to see the reality for themselves".

The vice-president also dismissed any idea that the Soviet-backed People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) would try to impose communism or even socialism on the country.

"The PDPA respects Islamic law, respects the traditions and values of the Afghan society," he said with reference to changes in the party program introduced by Mr. Najibullah.

Iran-Based Rebels Reject UN Presence on Border

LD1204121989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] The Islamic Coalition Council of Afghanistan [ICCA], while rejecting any kind of interference by foreign powers in Afghanistan, has opposed the UN Security Council's project to base international forces along the borders of Afghanistan. ICCA spokesman Muhammad Karim Khalili in an interview attended by a number of domestic and foreign reporters, announcing this piece of news this morning, saying: We are against any measures aimed at the regionalization or internationalization of the Afghan issue. We believe that if foreign powers stop interfering in Afghanistan, the Muslim Afghan nation would bring down the puppet Kabul regime in a short time.

Referring to the extension of liberation operations by the mujahidin, he said: In the regions which are under the control of the forces of the ICCA, in the north and west of Afghanistan, it is extremely cold, the snow is melting, and conditions are ripe for the start of operations. He announced that the forces under the command of the Coalition Council in the Meydan Province near Kabul, in Qazneh, and north of Kabul, are in the process of equipping themselves and preparing themselves for the start of operations. In the near future, they would be opening a new front close to Kabul.

Regarding the report that the Kabul regime is being equipped with chemical weapons, the ICCA spokesman said: The Kabul regime and occupying regime have deployed poisonous gases on numerous occasions against the mujahidin and the Afghan nation, and the renewed use of these in bombing the mujahidin's positions indicate the weakness and despair of the disintegrating Kabul regime. In another part of this interview, he referred to the activities of the interim government and said: Two months after the formation of the interim government by the brothers of the seven-party alliance in Peshawar, the absence of success in the political arena, outside and inside the country, is due to the fact that our brothers in Pakistan do not view problems realistically. This situation has, more than anything else, wasted time and delayed the victory of the Afghan people. He stressed: Just as the coalition council has repeatedly declared, the only just and practical solution is to submit a principled project with the participation of all mujahidin groups and parties—both Shi'ite and Sunni—aimed at solving the Afghan problem.

Taking note of the point that Islamic and world countries failed to give official recognition of the interim government, he said: Up to now, only Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and the Sudan have officially recognized the interim government. The silence of other Islamic countries is indicative of the lack of success of that government, which includes only some groups and parties.

Mujahidin Commander on Najibullah, Other Issues

JN1204115289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 12 Apr (WAKH)—A senior Afghan mujahid has predicted the collapse of the Najibullah regime within 6 months from now, when the mujahidin begin their major military campaign against government forces after the snow has melted.

Shaykh Jalaluddin Haqqani, one of the Afghan mujahidin military commanders, strongly denied that the mujahidin are affiliated with the United States or its allies. He said that the mujahidin are supported by God, and seek help and support only from God.

In an interview with the WAKH correspondent in Abu Dhabi, Shaykh Haqqani said that an ally extends all forms of aid to its ally, and that had the mujahidin been allies of the United States, the weapons in their hands would have exceeded what they have, in quality and quantity, and U.S. experts would have been with the mujahidin to train them on these weapons. He added that this has never happened and will never happen. He said that there are no civil or military U.S. experts with the mujahidin. [passage omitted]

The Afghan military commander said all the mujahidin's weapons consist of war booty from government forces, and that the mujahidin purchase weapons and ammunition from several sources. He added that the most important of these sources are the PRC, North Korea, and Egypt, which manufactures ammunition for the Soviet-made weapons.

Shaykh Haqqani admitted that Pakistan's aid to the mujahidin was not affected by the death of Ziaul Haq and Benazir Bhutto's assumption of power.

Asked about Pakistan's proposal to set up UN observation posts on its border with Afghanistan, he said that if this takes place then the Soviets should also agree to set up similar observation posts on their border with Afghanistan to prevent them from aiding the Afghan Government. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Haqqani rejected any reconciliation with the ruling Afghan regime. He said that Najibullah, head of the Afghan regime, has sent him tens of letters, inviting him to come to Kabul to form an Islamic government on condition that Najibullah remains head of the state, but he rejected this offer and insisted on toppling the regime, on deposing Najibullah, and on having Najibullah declare his repentance before the whole world.

The Afghan commander complained of the decrease in aid to the mujahidin from the Islamic states. He said that following the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, aid has decreased by almost 80 percent.

Wakil Delivers Najibullah Message to UN Chief

LD1104184189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] On the 20th of Hamal [9 April] Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Abdul Wakil delivered a message from esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, to UN Secretary General His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar. The UN secretary general's attention has been drawn to the dangerous situation caused by the intensification of Pakistan's intervention in the Republic of Afghanistan after the complete withdrawal of the military units of the Soviet Union. Taking this into account, the UN secretary general is requested to set up immediately a number of control posts of the United Nations Good Offices Mission on Afghanistan and Pakistan along the Afghan-Pakistani border. Similarly, the UN secretary general is requested to fulfill the tasks entrusted to him by the 43d session of the UN General Assembly for the implementation of the Geneva agreements, and he is strongly urged to respond to the invitation of the Republic of Afghanistan to visit Afghanistan and the region.

Another report indicates that minister of foreign affairs visited the UN Security Council president and drew his attention to the serious danger the intensification of Pakistan's violations pose for the Republic of Afghanistan. A request to remove the dangers caused by these violations and interferences, as well as a request to convene the Security Council, have been made.

Foreign Ministry on SRV Withdrawal From Cambodia

LD1204074389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 12 Apr 89

["Afghan Foreign Ministry View on the Joint Declaration on Withdrawal of Vietnamese Volunteers From Kampuchea"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, April 11, BAKHTAR—Earlier a joint declaration of the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, the Lao Democratic People's Republic and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the total withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer forces from Kampuchea was released in Hanoi. A spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs states that the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan welcomes the joint declaration of the said governments on the withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteers from Kampuchea. The spokesman added that the Vietnamese volunteers which were invited to Kampuchea in response to the appeal of the National United Front for Salvation of Kampuchea and the people of Kampuchea fulfilled a valuable role in safeguarding the independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty of Kampuchea as well as for the relaxation of tension in South-east Asia.

Now that the path of conciliation among different warring sides has been opened, one can be hopeful of a reliable and peaceful future after the complete return of the Vietnamese forces in September provided that foreign interventions are ceased.

The Republic of Afghanistan is supporting the principles which would solve the Kampuchean problem by the warring sides without foreign interventions. It also believes a comprehensive way of the solution of the problem which will be responsive to the national interests of the countries concerned can be achieved merely through peaceful and political channel, says the spokesman of the Afghan Foreign Ministry.

The full implementation of the provisions embodied in the joint declaration on withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteers from Kampuchea and the application of the peace proposal of the three countries concerned will pave the way for the comprehensive solution of the Kampuchean problem, concludes the Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Keshtmand Chairs Council of Ministers Session

LD1104204189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers Executive Committee session was held this morning at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers under the chairmanship of Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee. The session was also attended by the deputy prime ministers, a number of ministers, and heads of departments of the Republic of Afghanistan.

According to the agenda, a series of crucial social-economic issues were discusses at this session and specific decisions were taken on various issues.

At today's session of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee issues regarding the improvement of education and training in Afghan schools were widely discussed. [passage omitted]

Furthermore, at today's session the issues regarding the better organization of work in the AFSOTR [Afghan-Soviet transport enterprise] transport enterprise in the border area of Hayratan and the delivery of 500 Kamaz motor vehicles, the grant-in-aid assistance of the Soviet Union to Afghanistan for ensuring the transportation of goods from the Hayratan border to Kabul city and other provinces, was considered and the necessary decisions were made.

At today's session of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee, a number of draft legislative documents and other relevant issues were also discussed and the necessary decisions were made.

Diplomats Say USSR Resumes Military Supplies

BK1104131489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1258 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Islamabad, April 11 (AFP)—The Soviet Union has resumed supplying heavy weapons to Afghanistan by air as the battle for the eastern city of Jalalabad grinds into its sixth week, Western diplomats said here Tuesday.

The Soviets are increasingly using an "air bridge" to transport military cargo to Kabul, the diplomats said.

Snow in the north has made passage difficult along the Salang highway linking Kabul to the Soviet border, and Soviet planes which used to transport food and fuel to the Afghan capital are now also airlifting weapons, the diplomats said.

"A majority of the flights to the city are known to be weapons-related," one diplomat said. The shipments also include long-range surface-to-surface Scud missiles, the diplomat added.

Kabul has fired the Scuds against rebel positions around Jalalabad, but Pakistan said that one Scud landed last week inside its territory and resistance sources said another one strayed Monday inside Jalalabad.

Other sources said the Soviets were also sending large supplies of military equipment by road, including tanks and armoured vehicles.

But most of that equipment is stockpiled between the border and the city of Mazar-e Sharif, as the resistance continues to interdict munition convoys on the Salang highway, they said.

Several sources said guerrilla forces under field commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud were interdicting convoys on the Salang highway, stripping them of all military cargo but letting them proceed with food and other supplies.

One diplomatic source said Mr. Mas'ud, known as "the Lion of Panjsher," has sent a message to the city's residents with one group of trucks saying that he would be coming to Kabul as soon as the snow melts "to finalize the issue."

The diplomats said winter weather continues to affect mujahidin military operations in Afghanistan as snow has blocked key resistance supply routes.

Mujahidin forces continue to maintain a tight siege around Jalalabad, cutting off Kabul government access to the city by road and aircraft, except for helicopters, the diplomats said.

Most of the helicopters land at night, bringing in medical supplies and evacuating casualties, the diplomats said.

Afghan Air Force jets fly continuous sorties against resistance positions around the area.

But the jets, most of which come from bases around Mazar-e Sharif, carry out high altitude bombings attacks which result in "more civilian casualties than resistance losses," a diplomat said.

Resistance sources said the mujahidin shot down a new type of Afghan jet Tuesday west of Jalalabad. The jet was dropping bombs and mines on rebels positions near the Sarowbi District on the Kabul-Jalalabad highway.

They said the guerrillas frustrated the Afghan troops latest attempt to reopen the highway Monday. The rebels killed 18 government soldiers and the convoy was forced to retreat to Kabul after the attack destroyed 10 tanks and armoured vehicles.

The diplomats confirmed that a Scud missile fired from Kabul had landed inside Pakistan on April 7. They said so far more than 30 Scuds have been fired from Kabul towards the region between Jalalabad and the Pakistan border.

The missile attacks have caused some casualties, especially among civilians, but has had little effect on the resistance's military operation in the region, the diplomats said.

Battle Continues for Control of Jalalabad

Mujahidin Intensify Attacks

BK1104161089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1550 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 11 (AFP)—Mujahidin rebels intensified their offensive against eastern Jalalabad Monday and Tuesday but were held off by government bombing, artillery and infantry attacks, a government spokesman said here Tuesday.

The spokesman also said that the city of Khowst, also in the east, came under heavy attack Monday and that fighting was continuing Tuesday. No casualty figures were available from Khowst, he said, adding that the attackers were believed to number about 4,000 men. The rebels first attacked Khowst on Saturday, but the government said then that they had been beaten back.

In Jalalabad, where 18,000 shells and rockets reportedly fell Sunday night and Monday morning, heavy long-range shelling attacks continued, leaving five civilians and three Afghan Army personnel dead, while government sweeping and bombing left 318 mujahidin dead and another 157 injured, the spokesman said.

Commenting on reports from Pakistan that Afghan government forces had fired a Soviet Scud-B surface-to-surface missile on Jalalabad in error, the spokesman said "we have no report of that."

The spokesman, who had earlier stated that the Scuds supplied to the Afghan Army shortly before the Soviet troop withdrawal were fired with an accuracy of 98 percent, said the missiles were used to target weapons depots of "extremist forces" and moving munitions convoys.

The only other major action reported in the country was in Ghazni Province and Herat city to the west and in Qandahar to the southeast.

No casualties were reported from mujahidin rocketing of Ghazni or Qandahar, but in Herat one civilian was killed and six were wounded, he said.

The spokesman also denied reports from Soviet journalists who had visited Jalalabad saying that the government was unable to resupply their troops there by road because it had been closed by mujahidin fighting, adding that military convoys carrying food and military supplies were able to get through, but only by night.

Rebels Break Ramadan Cease-Fire

LD1104175189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] The cease-fire, which has been declared by the Republic of Afghanistan for the holy month of Ramadan, has been broken in Nangarhar, Paktia, Ghazni, Qandahar, and Herat Provinces as a result of heavy weapons fire by the enemy. The cease-fire has been holding in other parts of the country.

An authorized source of the Afghan Armed Forces told the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section that there was another wave of severe enemy attacks yesterday. Heavy weapons fire and artillery were launched against Jalalabad city and the surrounding lines of defense. The attacks came from the Shagah, Sorkh Rud, Kameh, and Rodat areas. The enemy forces were not able to advance in any direction due to the action of the units and companies of the Afghan Armed Forces and were pushed back in the direction of the Shagah District. As a result of shelling by the Pakistani Army's Divisions 11 and 18 and its puppet groups—who are being supplied regularly from inside Pakistan—three Armed Forces personnel and five civilians were martyred. Nine members of the Armed Forces were wounded. Five residences and two mosques were destroyed.

In retaliation, the Afghan Armed Forces using artillery, air, and infantry strikes simultaneously have killed 318 joint enemy forces and wounded 157. Among those killed are three Wahhabi advisers from Saudi Arabia, two Pakistani commanders, and five ringleaders of the Pakistan-linked groups, namely Mohasel, Nur Agha, Zaker, Nur Muhammad, and Mula. Also, 7 mortars, 5 recoilless guns, 6 rocket missile units, 4 BM-1 launching units, 3 BM-12 units, 19 rocket launchers, 2 Sucur-20 units, 4 ZK-1, 32 anti-tank mines, 3 [word indistinct] units, and 21 enemy strongholds, along with 11 trucks carrying their weapons and ammunition, were destroyed.

The Afghan Armed Forces in Nangarhar Province are carrying out their duties in defending the homeland with high combat morale and have further consolidated their positions and strongholds.

'Fierce Fighting' Continues

BK1204022889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, fierce fighting continues for control of Jalalabad where the mujahidin have launched a three-pronged attack. A spokesman for the Kabul regime has said that the mujahidin have been repulsed from one side of the city.

According to reports, fierce fighting is also taking place around Khowst, the southern city of Paktia Province. The mujahidin captured 25 Kabul regime troops and recovered a large number of arms and ammunition in the fighting.

Reports received from Qandahar say that the mujahidin killed seven Kabul regime troops near the airport and destroyed their two posts.

Fighting Continues Around Khowst District

LD1104181389 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] According to a report, two members of the Afghan Armed Forces were wounded when groups under the protection of Pakistan launched heavy weapons fire at some parts of Paktia Province. Reports reaching us from Khowst District state that Pakistani forces and the groups linked to it, which have been engaged for some days now in extensive war preparations inside Pakistani territory around this region, yesterday attacked the defense belt around Khowst District from three directions using heavy weapons, tanks, and other equipment. These aggressive operations are being directly led by Punjabi commanders and Wahhabi advisers from Saudi Arabia. The severe fighting between the Afghan Armed Forces and the aggressor forces in the Khowst District is continuing.

According to another report, as a result of a mopping up operation and a search by the Afghan Armed Forces in Qandahar Province, which was carried out in retaliation for an enemy missile attack in the (Towr Kotal)) region, five extremists were killed and seven were wounded. One truck carrying enemy weapons and ammunition was destroyed. The report adds that as a result of heavy weapons attack by enemy groups linked to Pakistan on residential areas of Herat city, one civilian was martyred and six were wounded. The enemy also attacked residential areas in Qandahar and Ghazni cities with heavy weapons; but there was no loss of life.

Delegation From Soviet Central Republics Arrives

LD1004131689 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, 10 Apr (BAKHTAR)—At Gol Khanah Palace, the headquarters of the Council of Ministers, Deputy Prime Minister Sarwar Mangal this afternoon met with a high-ranking official state delegation from the Uzbek, Turkmen, and Tajik Soviet Socialist Republics [SSR's], led by the deputy chairmen of the SSR Councils of Ministers.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that during the meeting the sides held detailed discussions and exchanged views on issues related to the political and economic situation in the Republic of Afghanistan under the current special conditions and on the need to further expand and develop cooperation in the fields of economics, science and technology, and culture, especially with our country's northern provinces. They also discussed other topics of mutual interest.

Holds Talks in Kabul

LD1204082489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 11, BAKHTAR—Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, deputy prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, received here today a delegation from the Soviet Central Asian republics, Tajikistan, Turkmenia and Uzbekistan headed by the deputy premiers of those republics. The delegation is here at the invitation of the Afghan Government.

Present at the meeting were ministers of commerce, planning, light industries and foodstuffs, repatriate affairs and the head of the Department of the Direct Relations as well as the commercial attache of the Soviet Union.

The sides discussed questions of developing and strengthening cooperation between the border Soviet republics and the northern provinces of Afghanistan. They also considered the extent to which cooperation could be extended in public health, trade, public education, to which deliveries of food products and prime necessities to the Republic of Afghanistan could be increased.

The Soviet delegation also participated in a meeting of solidarity of the Afghan people with the people of Soviet Central Asian republics. The meeting was also attended by Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy USSR foreign minister and Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan.

Dr. Basir Ranjbar, president of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organisation of the Republic of Afghanistan and His Excellency Usmanov, deputy premier of Tajikistan Republic talked about the ways of strengthening and extending direct relations between the Soviet republics and Afghan provinces in different spheres.

India

Minister Comments on Brady Plan for Debt Relief

BK1204032689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] The finance minister says India will not seek any fresh loan from the IMF this year. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi yesterday, Mr S.B. Chavan said the balance of payments position has improved slightly. The situation can be managed without any special assistance from the World Bank and other agencies. The minister indicated that there will not be any increase in the level of commercial borrowings this year.

Referring to the Brady plan to tackle the debt problem, he clarified that India neither supports nor opposes it as no details of the plan have yet been given. He said India is not against any help being extended to Latin American and African countries. However, it wants that any formula for this should be uniformally applied to all developing countries which are similarly placed.

Commentary Assails Pakistan, U.S. Afghan Policy
BK1004140289 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Commentary by political observer Dr Bimla Nayyar: "The Situation in Afghanistan"]

[Text] The Pakistan and the U.S. insistence on a military solution to the Afghan problem is blatant violation of the Geneva accord, can only prolong the war, lead to more bloodshed, and aggravate the agonies of the Afghan people. But it cannot solve the Afghan problem. It can rather lead to the partition of Afghanistan, the cost of which, in human terms, would be enormous. A political solution by way of forging a broad-based government, which includes the field commanders, the PDPA elements, and the moderate mujahidin, is the only solution that can stop bloodshed. And this solution is not possible unless Pakistan and USA stop interfering in Afghanistan and allow the Geneva accords to be implemented.

The fighting so far is going on along the borders with Pakistan in Jalalabad, Sarowbi on the Kabul-Jalalabad highway. The Western media and Pakistani press that had been wishfully predicting fall of Najibullah regime in Kabul immediately and after the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan have been proved miserably wrong. Even the bordering town of Jalalabad has not yet fallen to mujahidin with nearly 2 months of fighting, much less to hold or consolidate Jalalabad. The big rocket attacks on Kabul, Badakhshan, Meymaneh, and Khowst—the cities bordering Pakistan—and the resultant casualties indicate intensification of rebel effort, supply of quality of arms and ammunition by Pakistan and U.S.A. to the rebels, and firm rejection of the cease-fire offer of President Mohammad Najibullah. Heavy fighting in Sarowbi, about 85 km from Kabul on the highway to the border city of Jalalabad, is an effort to gain heights by mujahidin to launch direct rocket attacks on Kabul. The government forces reportedly used low-level bombing to scatter a force of about 4,000 rebels, who had infiltrated the area.

After nearly 2 months of fighting and bloody battles, mujahidin seem to be changing their strategy and are now pressing for guerrilla warfare and seizure of cities to wear down the government defenders. To counter this, the government forces have repeatedly been switching units in the besieged city with reinforcements. Apart from low air strikes, Afghan government [forces] have also been using Soviet-made Scud missiles to inflict losses to mujahidin. In reply to these Scud surface-to-surface missiles, the rebels are using the Chinese-made 107 mm and guided (Saka 20) and (Saka 30) rockets, which rely on high explosive fragmentation warheads for their antipersonnel effect. According to reports available, Pakistani military advisers are not only supplying sophisticated arms but also directing and coordinating the battle to Jalalabad in sheer frustration. Pakistan's open intervention in Jalalabad might simply escalate war out of hand. Appeal of Abdul Wali Khan to the UN secretary general, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, Mr Robert Mugabe, and Mr Rajiv Gandhi to use their good offices to bring this war to an end and restore peace in Afghanistan is a pointer and articulation of a strong popular desire in Pakistan. Even if Jalalabad falls eventually with the active support of Pakistan, it may only help Pakistan to shift Pak-based Kabul government to Jalalabad to help seek its recognition. War experts do not see immediate fall of Jalalabad. Armies do not win battles on wishful thinking much less a ragtag band of hopelessly divided mujahidin.

The U.S. Administration still seems to be playing in the hands of Pakistan. The U.S. intervention was understandable to some extent, when Soviet troops were in Afghanistan. But now, arming mujahidin has no justification. Pakistan's military intelligence has for years used U.S. aid to bolster Islamic fundamentalists like Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, a resistance leader. It looks that Pakistan military has got uncontrollably involved in this adventure to solve Pakistan's long time border dispute with Afghanistan. Ever they push the region and concurrently to overthrow Ms Bhutto's civil government. [sentence as heard] Any destabilization situation in Afghanistan, including dividing that country, would destabilize the entire region. It is true that the present transitional government is no representative of people nor has any constructive program to suit the forces of the entire Afghan political spectrum, it is also torn by internal strife and is even exposed by individual opposition groups and the field commanders. The external interference, particularly of Pakistan and USA, is only aggravating the inner conflicts in Afghanistan that have been festering for years.

What needs to be done now is to implement Geneva accord in letter and spirit to which America and Pak are signatories. This alone will mark the beginning of a new period—a period of peaceful settlement. It is the political solution and not the military one that can bring long-cherished peace in Afghanistan.

U.S. Rifle Recovered From Punjab 'Terrorists'
BK1204030089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] In Punjab, two terrorists have been killed in separate encounters with the security forces since last night. According to an official spokesman, one terrorist was killed in an encounter in (Garh Shanker) of Hoshiarpur District early this morning and another in the Batala City of Gurdaspur District last night. Some arms and ammunition, including an American rifle, were recovered from the killed terrorists.

Kashmir Chief Not To Impose Disturbed Areas Act
BK1204085889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has said the situation in the valley is fully under control and there is no need to impose the

Disturbed Areas Act on any areas. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi today, he said the state is facing a problem of subversion and underdevelopment but his government has plans to tackle these. Dr Abdullah said trained terrorists crossed into the state from Pak-occupied Kashmir and were responsible for recent disturbances. He said reports indicate that training camps, which were closed down after Mrs Benazir Bhutto came into power in Pakistan, have again started functioning.

Dr Abdullah blamed the opposition in the state of fanning the trouble. He said they are playing into the hands of subversive elements and do not realize what harm they are doing to the state's economy.

Dr Abdullah said he had a meeting with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, this morning and he discussed with him the situation in the state. In reply to a question, he said he discussed all matters concerning the state with the prime minister and has pleaded for speedy clearance of state projects, particularly power projects to tide over the difficult situation.

Prohibitory Orders in Srinagar

BK1204032489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the government has imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144 [banning assembling of five or more persons] in Srinagar city for 2 months as a precautionary measure. An order to this effect was issued yesterday.

More IPKF Soldiers To Withdraw From Sri Lanka

BK1104162989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] India has decided to withdraw more units of the peacekeeping force [PKF] from the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka.

Disclosing this in New Delhi today an official spokesman told newsmen that the decision had been taken by the Government of India in the light of the emerging situation in the province. He said during the last 2 days the PKF force level was reviewed and it was decided that the further reduction in the level is now possible. Accordingly, additional units will be withdrawn in the coming week.

Cyprus President Arrives on Weeklong Visit

BK1104074989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] The Cyprus president, Dr Yeoryios Vasiliou, arrived in New Delhi this morning on a week-long official visit to the country. He was received at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] among others by the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. Dr Vasiliou is accompanied by a 24-member delegation, including the ministers of foreign affairs, finance, and trade. He inspected an inter-service guard of honor as 21 guns boomed in salute.

Speaking to newsmen at Rashtrapati Bhavan on his arrival, the Cyprus president expressed the hope that his visit will help improve the excellent bilateral relations in every respect, particularly on the economic front.

Cyprus To Help Promote Trade

BK1204032089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Cyprus has offered to help India promote its trade relations with the European Economic Community. Speaking at a banquet hosted by the president, Mr Venkataraman, in New Delhi yesterday evening, the visiting Cypriot president, Dr Yeoryios Vasiliou, said he aspires to make his country a window of Europe to Asia and of Asia to Europe. In this task Cyprus lays great importance on its special relationship with India, Dr Vasiliou added. He said the two countries could increase cooperation in scientific, educational, and cultural fields.

Speaking on the Cyprus problem, Dr Vasiliou called upon the Turkish Cypriots to inject a sense of urgency in the negotiations aimed at finding a comprehensive solution.

In his speech, the president, Mr Venkataraman, said India is saddened at the continued tragic division of the island. He expressed the hope that a dialogue being conducted under the aegis of the UN secretary general will result in a peaceful, equitable, and mutually acceptable settlement of the issue.

Concludes Visit, Departs

BK1204125889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] The Cyprus president, Dr Yeoryios Vasiliou, left New Delhi this evening for Agra on the second leg of his 8-day visit to the country. He was seen off at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] among others by the president, Mr Venkataraman, and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Speaking to our correspondent at Rashtrapati Bhavan, Dr Vasiliou described his visit to India as extremely successful and fruitful.

Earlier, addressing a news conference, Dr Vasiliou said India and Cyprus are to expand cooperation in the economic field. He said he discussed a cooperation agreement in economic, technical, cultural and scientific areas with Mr Rajiv Gandhi and other leaders, and it will be signed by the commerce ministers of the two countries tomorrow.

Polish Vice President Arrives on Official Visit
BK1104155989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] The Polish vice president, Dr Tadeusz Szelachowski, arrived in New Delhi today on a 8-day official visit. He was received at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Dr Szelachowski will hold bilateral talks with the president, the vice president, and the prime minister.

Lok Sabha Speaker Recognizes Janata Dal Party
BK1104091089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Excerpt] The Janata Dal has been recognized as a party in the Lok Sabha. Giving his ruling, the speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, said he is satisfied that the merger of the Janata Party and the Lok Dal is as per the conditions stipulated in the 10th schedule of the Constitution. He said Professor Madhu Dandavati is the leader of the Janata Dal in the house, while Mr Jaipal Reddy and Mohammad Mahfooz Ali Khan will be deputy leaders. [passage Omitted]

Iran

Karrubi Interviewed on Combatant Clergy Groups
PM1204102589 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Mar 89 p 16

[Majlis Deputy Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi interviewed on 18 March by unidentified KEYHAN correspondents; place not given]

[Excerpt] [KEYHAN] As secretary of the (breakaway) Combatant Clergy, how do you view this organization's actions during its first year?

[Karrubi] Because of differences of opinion and ideology on various issues, we felt the need to break the Combatant Clergy into two factions. The first thing we did after this break was to take part in the Majlis elections. Of course, the elections were not the only cause for the break, but that is how it turned out with regard to the elections.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi then talked about the (breakaway) Combatant Clergy's activities in the provinces, saying: We do not have branches in the provinces but we have ideological links with Mashhad, Qom, and other towns.

Concerning the past year's activities of the Combatant Clergy, Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi said these included: writing a charter, coordinating closely with mosques and other centers of propaganda, sending money to the war fronts, making contacts with the Majlis and government, forming committees in mosques, choosing some of the Friday imams, providing various propaganda help, maintaining contacts with the Islamic propagation office in Qom and with clerics throughout the country, meeting with the Combatant Clergy (original group) with regard to the charter of the brotherhood, and announcing various political goals and positions at various times. He added: I can say that the group has been active in every political and social event in the country during the past year.

He then talked about the joint meeting of the two factions of the Combatant Clergy, held after the imam issued the brotherhood charter. He said: It was decided that this should be repeated every once in a while. Committees also were formed to prepare ther agendas for these meetings. A meeting probably will be held after the New Year holidays.

The secretary of the (breakaway) Combatant Clergy then answered a question on the group's future programs: There are several issues coming up in the future; one is the presidential elections in which we will take an active part. We also hope to get involved in the general political and economic atmosphere in the country.

Scientific work in the theological schools and centers is very important to use. We are hoping to become more active in this area. We have decided that along with our contacts with friends in the universities, we also should have close contact with students in thelogical centers in order to prepare the novices. We feel that all the clergy should become involved in the manpower area and in creating a work force because this is an Islamic republic and an Islamic regime. We need active clerics in the Majlis, revolutionary organizations, judicial system, and all organizations. The truth of the matter is that we fall short in this regard. We are weak on this point and we have decided to become active.

[KEYHAN] It seems from the goals you list that your group needs serious and comprehensive organization. How much of this organizational work have you done?

[Karrubi] We now have a central office which is in touch with all the branches in Tehran. The central committee meets reguarly. I feel, as far as organization goes, we are in good shape in Tehran.

[KEYHAN] You have said that you will take active part in the presidential elections to be held in the summer. Have you chosen a special candidate?

[Karrubi] My own personal view is that Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani is the best person for the post. We met with him a long time ago and I voiced my personal view, but he was doubtful as to whether he would accept the post. He gave some reasons why it would be best if he refused the post. I rejected those reasons. For us, it was [word illegible] that he becomes a candidate.

Concerning the position of the (breakaway) Combatant Clergy, we discussed the issue of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani becoming our candidate for the presidency. All those

present voted unanimously for Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani as our candidate. We hereby announce that our candidate for the post of the presidency is Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

[KEYHAN] Did Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani accept your reasons as to why he should become a presidential candidate? Did he reply positively to this request?

[karrubi] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said at the meeting that he did not reject our reasoning.

[KEYHAN] You met a while ago with the (original) Combatant Clergy in order to carry out the imam's brotherhood charter. Can you picture the two groups joining together? In general, what are your future programs with regard to the brotherhood charter?

[Karrubi] If the meaning of this is to become one body, I must say that this is not what the imam was talking about in his letter. In that letter, the imam put two ideas into two movements involving two kinds of thought and two ways of looking at issues. The only thing the imam asked in that letter was that the two groups have good contacts with one another, be like brothers, and not to drive out one another.

We also believe the two groups can exist side by side, do their work, have very good relations, and hold similar views on a lot of things. We also believe they can have a difference of opinion while having good relations with each another. We consider this [words illegible] of unity in terms of better cooperation. There is no question of joining the two groups.

[KEYHAN] Could the two factions of the Combatant Clergy put forward the same candidate for the presidency and could they have a unified view in that regard?

[Karrubi] We have not discussed putting forward the same candidate. As far as I know and have heard, they also were inclined to put forward Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani as a candidate.

[KEYHAN] Following recent events, the imam sent a message to the families of the martyrs, in which he apologized for positions taken by some officials. Despite the imam's apology, what is the duty of other officials in this respect?

[Karrubi] This message was one of his most important. It contained many rofound points that will determine fates and break deadlocks. When this message came out, the usual praises were sung and the normal things were said. However, the imam has been hurt and saddened by some of the things that have been discussed.

I believe that the limit and guidelines for interviews, speeches, and comments are the guidelines provided by the imam. What does not meet these guidelines should not be said at all. Another thing that must be pointed out is that, in general, the imam's greatness, his love, his honesty, and his knowledge of society made him apologize.

If under present conditions, words are said that offend the families of the martyrs, it would be very hard for them and the imam to bear. Quite honestly, the imam's words completely removed that worry which those discussions had caused among these families. It is important that those who said those things apologize to the people.

[KEYHAN] The (breakaway) Combatant Clergy had complained about the trend of executive, propaganda, and foreign policies with regard to meeting the goals and ideals of the Islamic revolution. What are your main complaints in this area and what do think is a solution?

[Karrubi] First of all, the (breakaway) Combatant Clergy shares these problems. I feel that lack of coordination, and experience, obstinacy, and a general lack of maturity, especially in basic issues, have brought about these shortfalls and weaknesses and have even hurt our ideals in some areas.

You can see how many problems we have in the economy. How many contradictory edicts and orders do we have? In how many cases are methods changed? The same thing applies to cultural issues. We are a society whose good and bad aspects belong to all of us. There must be more coordination so that the issues are dealt with in a more mature manner, so that they can be resolved. Everyone wants to serve, but their capability is at a certain level, and the imam has to give his guidelines.

[KEYHAN] The imam had never mentioned the "Hojjatiyeh" society by name until that last message. Why?

[Karrubi] First of all, you must know that the imam viewed the Hojjatiyeh negatively, even from the days of the previous regime. According to the imam, an effort was made to correct them, but it failed. The imam told one of the country's important figures—whom I shall not name because he may not want to be named—that he tried but could not correct them. This same person talks about the day he went to see the imam to ask the him if a certain person was his representative in the Hojjatiyeh society. The imam told him: No, I have no representative there. I tried to correct them but they would not be corrected. What the imam meant was correcting their way of thinking and their political ideology.

We used to ask the imam's permission to withdraw money for Islamic schools, but nothing was ever paid to the schools run by the Hojjatiyeh. One must say that in the days of oppression, there were some revolutionaries in that society, but this was a nonpolitical setup. It was an organization that stood against the revolution, to fight and deliver blows to the regime.

In 1978 Hojjat ol-Eslam Mr Ahmad called me to say that the imam has issued a message. We prepared one of the gentlemen's homes. He read the message from Najaf, which we taped. We then wrote it out so that it could be distributed. As soon as this was issued, the Hojjatiyehs announced that this is a fake message. I immediately got in touch with Mr Ahmad and said that this was not an ordinary message and that there should be a hand written note from the imam. It was not long before the message in the imam's own hand arrived and this was distributed.

When this message got out, the Hojjatiyeh began to object, saying this is not correct, that it was the Baha'is who did not want us to celebrate the 12th imam's birthday. I will mention again that we had some individuals who used to go off separately to do something but, all in all, it was an organization that was determined to separate issues from politics.

Their view was that the shah's doctor, a Baha'i, was very close to the shah while they did not have anyone that close.

The imam, in his wisdom, had not mentioned them before by name. The reason he mentioned them this time is because some of these people have found a little place for themselves in some areas and in some cases, are claiming to be the inheritors of the revolution. They even found themselves in positions of some influence in some cases, so the imam ordered that they be replaced.

[KEYHAN] Let us not talk about the people's daily problems. As you know, high prices have gotten out of hand. Some people hold the government responsible and the government complains about not having enough facilities to combat high prices. It keeps promising that the new state punishment law will be effective. As a political group, as secretary of a group, are you hopeful that the new law will put an end to high prices? Do you think the actions of the Expediency Discernment Council are enough?

[Karrubi] As you said, high prices are out of control. It is no exageration to say that we are always talking about the oppressed in our slogans, but unfortunately, it is the oppressed who are receiving a crushing blow. Those who have a source of income have buying power no matter how high the prices go and, in any case, they will make up for increased prices. However, the person with no source of income stays poor and oppressed.

When the Majlis discussed the budget, it was suggested that civil servants should get a raise of 7,000 rials, but we saw that even if this were approved before these people could feel the effet of the raise, it would be absorbed by high prices. So the pressure is really on the poor.

Inflation rises by the minute. Someone was saying that he goes shopping on Mondays and that one item he buys had gone up 3,000 rials from one Monday to the next. In this connection, the government needs power and exactness to control prices.

I have heard that the state punishment law which has been written is a good law. But its official points have to be written well and it must be carried out well. Of course, there is the lack of experience, but this law will be effective if it is carried out well.

It is important that there be control. The situation will get worse if there is no control. Punishments were lifted from one area and the situation there got worse. Of course, this is not the only solution to high prices. Other issues are involved in this and they all have to have a hand in solving this problem. [passage omitted]

Article on Islamic Resurgence in Turkey

NC1104103389 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Apr 89 p 4

[Unattributed article: "Islamic Protests on Their Way To Rattle Turkey's Secular Government"]

[Text] An Islamic upsurge is catching on around the globe and, of course, especially in Moslem countries. The Islamic revolution in Iran has surely contributed greatly to bringing about this modern ages' Islamic consciousness.

In neighboring countries too the surge is making rounds of the countries, much to the chagrin of some of these governments.

The main factor for this Islamic revivalism is the people's realization of the fact that Eastern and Western ideologies are bound to alienate them from their own rich indigenous Islamic culture and ultimately face them with what can be best termed an "existential vacuum".

In the neighboring Turkey too the Islamic awareness is increasing. Women as well as men, and among them many from the younger generation, are stressing a return to Islamic values. The government, regrettably though, has opted for stifling this religious awareness, probably only to realize in the end that it cannot.

Pro-Islamic demonstrations swept Turkish cities this month, prompting the question—does an Islamic revival threaten the secular Republic of Turkey?

The protests, sparked by anger at Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses", were fuelled by a ban this month on women wearing Islamic headscarves at universities.

Hundreds of black-clad women and bearded men, braving riot police and arrests, marched repeatedly in several cities after Friday prayers shouting "Allah-u Akbar (God alone is great)".

"An Islamic movement is on the rise," said a diplomat from the European Community (E.C.), which Turkey has applied to join.

"But the really interesting questions is, where is the movement going?" he asked.

The militant Moslem fundamentalism seen in the demonstrations was just one current among several competing to dominate Turkey's Islamic movement.

An Islamic revolution on the Iranian model seems unlikely as there is no single charismatic leader to unite opposition and the Turkish Sunni Moslem mainstream maybe regarded as basically pro-government.

But, 65 years after revolutionary secularists led by Kemal Ataturk abolished the Ottoman Islamic Caliphate, the unifying potential of Islam in Turkey remains high.

"If the Islamic movement is left alone, it will stay quiet. But if any side tries to make an issue of it, it could be dangerous," said Binnaz Toprak, a Bosphorus University politics professor specializing in Islamic issues.

Housing Minister Safa Giray said the country would split down the middle if a referendum were held on the university headscarf ban, as suggested by some government ministers.

The Constitutional Court, the highest judicial body, annulled on March 7 a Parliamentary bill which allowed women to wear Moslem-style headscarves on campuses.

Differences over Islam could also provoke a split in Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's Motherland Party, which includes both liberal free-marketeers and the pro-Islamic right.

Ozal's most popular vote-winner, Istanbul Mayor Bedrettin Dalan, has made clear he is thinking of setting up a new party with secularism as a major rallying cry. President Kenan Evren, military chiefs and other pillars of the secularist establishment have voiced worries about the Islamic unrest.

But almost all commentators say that any growth in the strength of Islam in Turkey particularly due to the 1980-83 period of military rule under Evren, a former general.

The 1982 Constitution imposed severe restrictions on left-wing activities and introduced compulsory teaching of Islam at school for the first time.

A trend of Islamification of society and the bureaucracy has accelerated under Ozal's government, with critics saying that Islamic "Tarikat" brotherhoods are increasingly powerful.

Budget and staff allocations to the State Religious Affairs Directorate, which runs Turkey's 60,000 mosques, have grown faster than almost any other government department.

The number of state secondary schools with a heavy Islamic curriculum to train mosque prayer leaders has multiplied, and they now educate 13 percent of all secondary school students.

Diplomats believe foreign involvement in the issue in Turkey is slight and the movement is indeed a genuine popular one.

Saudi Arabia backs its vision of Islam through Islamic banks and cultural associations.

Newspapers linked a covert war between Islamic hardliners and moderates to the mysterious murder this month of a liberal Istanbul prayer leader as he came down from his minaret.

But violence is unusual. Islam in Turkey ranges from the harmlessly medieval to the colourfully unorthodox.

The religious belief among rural populace in particular is very strong. In the Black Sea mountains, sick peasants queue for days at a medieval Islamic shrine in the hope that their illness will be cured.

In Istanbul, progressive groups co-exist with rigidly fundamentalist thinking in quarters where Qoran schools look like forts and some women wear black head-to-toe coverings (chador).

Minority sects range from Shi'ite Moslem Azeris in northeast Turkey to the Alevis, an independent-minded, heterodox Shi'ite sect which may number more than 10 million people.

Islam has its main political impact in cities where mosque-goers are dominated by lower middle-class tradesmen.

But the share of the vote won by overtly Islamic fundamentalist parties peaked at about 11 percent in the early 1970's. It is now around six percent and declining.

Even during the Ottoman period, when Istanbul was a major center of the Islamic world, Islamic law was sidelined by the sultan's law.

The words of the prime minister's wife seemed to apply to many Turks when she vowed this month that religious extremists would be confronted.

"We are both a Moslem country and a secular country," said Semra Ozal, who publicly disobeys Islam's ban on drinking alcohol. "I have been a pilgrim to Mecca, but I drink what I drink."

It seems Mrs Ozal had better check l
before playing a claim to be a Mosle her Islamic standing
has paid a visit to Mecca. Islam is em only because she
meaning it has a remedy for mans a demanding faith
spiritual. But in return this Divine on's all ills, social or
give up certain shallow, superficial code does ask one to
prove an impediment to man's spiral liberties that only
choice is man's. And unlike Mrs Oz ritual evolution. The
now millions in Turkey who wish t zal, there seem to be
exported anti-human values, and t to give up Western-
with divinely-inspired Islamic value to adorn themselves
ies.

TEHRAN TIMES Editorial on l Lebanon

NC1104101189 Tehran TEHRAN T
29 Mar 89 p 2 *TIMES in English*

[Editorial: "Lebanon in Danger of I Disintegration"]

[Text] The artillery battle which brol
is still raging in Beirut unabated witbke out a few days ago
already. All the poor citizenry can th over 400 casualties
other areas in the country. n do is seek refuge in

Meanwhile, the self-appointed hea
Maronite regime General Michel 'Aad of the illegitimate
his forces will continue fighting to 'Awn is insisting that
out. He says he is ready to pay o push Syrian troops
published], including razing Beiru y just and price [as
achieve his ends. rut in its entirety to

Such statements only corroborate t
Maronites have come with an exten the suspicion that the
grate the country this time. ensive plan to disinte-

'Awn's presenting the presence of S
anon as the country's main problen Syrian troops in Leb-
internationalize the Lebanese crisiem is indeed a ploy to
the situation to protect Maronite psis in order to exploit
political footholds.

The fact is the Lebanese 14-year cri
product of the Syrian presence in crisis is by no means a
nitty-gritty of the problem is root in that country. The
Lebanese Christians, being in the mioted in the fact that
to comply with the norms of wminority, have refused
numerical democracy. what can be termed

The timing for the Maronite attacks
troops in the current episode migh ks of Syrian and Druze
the light of the fact that Syria is ght possibly be seen in
isolation. Damascus is not a signatc now rather in relative
treaties of North African nationatory to any of the Arab
Council and (Persian) Gulf Coopens, Arab Cooperation
peration Council.

However, even an Arab mediating
to come up with a solution to theng delegation has failed
Tunisia. he Lebanese tragedy in

Another point that should not go
that began to separate the two Islgo unnoticed is the rift
wings in Lebanon since 1986. Dalslamic and Nationalist
least part of the blame for the schDamascus has to bear at
chism.

Yet it may be drawn that in spite of the existing split between these two forces, they will have to inevitably close ranks and unite in the face of the challenge from the Phalangists. What bolsters this notion is the fact that the possibility of an Israeli intervention, as was realized in 1982, looms at present too.

Besides, Iraq too is raising the curtain on its politico-military support to 'Awn's adventurism further day by day. This, of course, is expected to bring Tehran and Damascus together even further.

The consequence to such a development will in all likelihood be a rapprochement between the Moslem forces sympathizing with Iran's Islamic revolution and the Syrian-backed nationalist forces in troubled Lebanon after some two years of hostilities.

Editorial Urges Support for Hezbollah Forces

NC1004191689 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 25 Mar 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Year of Defending the Hezbollah"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In the last moments of 1367 [year ending 20 March 1989] and the first days of 1368 [year beginning 21 March 1989], we witnessed the great retreat of the EEC members before the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

This development has been recorded as an outstanding turning point in the history of the world and especially in the history of the West's confrontation with Islam. It can be studied from two angles.

The first is that the West has once again learned a lesson about its approach to Islam and if it is in search of realities, then it can learn great lessons from this experience. Westerners should understand that 1 billion Muslims are awake today and that the Islamic life of these people is basically different from what it was a decade ago. This alertness is the fruit of the Islamic revolution. For this reason, the West should consider this revolution more seriously. The situation in the world of Islam is such that the West cannot rise to fight against it with its past weapons.

Therefore, either it has to change its weapons, or review its approach to the Islamic Republic. As the chances of the second alternative appear to be very slight, we should expect them to change the weapons which they have used thus far to inflict blows on Islam. [passage omitted]

The second point is that Westerners are well aware of the origins of the blows that have been inflicted on them. They have clearly understood that the Islamic revolution and its decisive and uncompromising leadership are the frank spokesmen for traditional Islam and that the Islamic Republic is the base for this Islam. They are well aware of the fact that if Imam Khomeni did not exist, the Salman Rushdie affair would not have exploded in such

a way. The imam's courage in expressing Islam's view so clearly is something which Islam needs in this era of multifaceted aggression on the part of a united front of atheism, blasphemy, and world discord against the bases of Islam. The enemy has understood this clearly, and it is because of this that Islamic Iran is the target of its malicious attacks.

The conclusion that one draws from this is that the Islamic revolution, both in Iran and outside, has a real need of the Hezbollah forces to continue its movement and its resistance to the rancorous enemies of Islam. This revolution achieved victory with the help of the Hezbollah. The burden of the imposed war was on the shoulders of the Hezbollah. The aggressive enemy was ousted from the country by the Hezbollah. Counterrevolution was crushed by the Hezbollah. Whenever the defense of Islam and the revolution called for the sacrifice of life, property, and dignity, the Hezbollah sacrificed life, property, and dignity, and tolerated all pressures and difficulties.

But the Hezbollah has not been supported as it deserved until now. Not only was it not supported, but sometimes it met with disaffection, and sometimes inexpert, pretentious people were hurled at it. The new year should be a year in which defense of the Hezbollah is taken seriously. It should be the year when the imam's statement that "defending the Hezbollah is a firm principle of the Islamic Republic's policy" should be implemented. All those who love the revolution and Islam should know that the continuation of the revolution's path and the preservation of the banner of pure Islam can be achieved only by complete support for the Hezbollah.

Lavasani, UN Chief Discuss Upcoming Meeting

LD1104212189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Mr Lavasani, deputy foreign minister for international affairs, met with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to discuss the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 and determine the agenda of the next session of the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq.

According to a Central News Unit report, in the course of this meeting the secretary general's four-point plan was endorsed as the agenda for the next session of the two foreign ministers. Mr Lavasani asked that some steps be taken to prevent the Iraqi regime's violation of the cease-fire and that priority be given to the withdrawal of this regime's forces to internationally recognized borders.

Mr Lavasani also met with the secretary general's special representative, Mr Jan Eliasson.

Ambassadors to Poland, Benin Appointed

LD1204034689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] At the suggestion of our country's foreign minister and with the president's approval, Mr Kioumars Fatuhi has been appointed Iran's ambassador to Poland. Mr Nasratollah Shadnush, Iran's ambassador to Nigeria, was also appointed Iran's ambassador to Benin.

Brother of Murdered Man Denies Link With Ex-Shah

LD1204100689 Teheran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—The brother of an Iranian engineer, Seyyed Chitsaz [name as received], murdered in Tijuana, Mexico, bordering Los Angeles, last month, has denied any link between his brother and the former shah of Iran.

The ASSOCIATED PRESS in a report Tuesday indentified Seyyed Chitsaz, a 39 year old electronics engineer, shot in a robbery case on March 8, as the nephew of the deposed shah.

But his brother Mas'ud, a member of board of directors of the Iranian telephone company, in an interview with IRNA today, denied the claim.

He said Seyyed was a member of the association of Iranian Muslim students in America before the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution. After the victory of the revolution Seyyed returned to the U.S. for further education, said his brother.

He further told IRNA that the four men arrested in connection with the murder, are Mexicans. He added that he had received information on murder of his brother through his cousin Hamedreza Baharimehr [name as received] who has been present in all investigations.

Musavi Hears Report on IRGC's New Helicopter

LD1104181489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] In today's meeting of the officials from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] in charge of aeronautic industries, which was convened in the presence of the prime minister, a report was submitted on the manufacture and flight capability of the first helicopter designed and manufactured in Iran called "Zafar," as well as the latest advances made in the manufacture of training aircraft with jet motors and pilotless reconnaissance aircraft.

The prime minister expressed his thanks for the efforts and innovations of the experts of the aeronautic industries of the IRGC. He described the design and manufacture of the "Zafar" helicopter as a very important step in the country's military industry. He said: The aeronautical industries of the IRGC have had considerable success in manufacturing prototype aircraft. It is important for us, however, not to stop here. We must bring into production our gains both in the fields of manufacturing helicopters and pilotless aircraft, as well other more advanced jet aircrafts which, God willing, will be achieved in the near future. We need to satisfy the country's urgent needs.

Drug Seizures Reported Around Country

LD1104140789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT Apr 89

[Text] In continuation of the battle of the Islamic Revolution Committee guards throughout the country against international gangs which are procuring and distributing narcotics, 21 members of such networks, possessing over 500 kgs of various kinds of narcotics, were arrested.

Announcing this in an interview with IRNA, the spokesman for the public relations office of the Islamic Revolution Committee added: In that same connection, the guards of Sistan va Baluchestan Province's Islamic Revolution Committee has indentified another international gang receiving and distributing narcotics in the Sistan va Baluchestan region, discovering 77.5 kgs of opium and arresting two of the gang's leaders.

In addition, the committee guards of that province, in the course of identifying agents of a narcotics distribution network in Khorasan Province, succeeded in discovering over 80 kgs of opium in the Torbat-e Jam region and arresting two members.

He also announced: The Islamic Revolution Committee guards recently have seized 100 kgs of opium and 260 kgs of heroin in the towns of Chah Bahar and Shiraz.

In conclusion, the Islamic Revolution Committee public relations spokesman warned drug-smugglers, saying: Give yourselves up as quickly as possible to committee centers througout the country while you can.

100 Villages 'Totally Demolished' in Floods

LD1204072889 Tehran IRNA in English 0704 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Zabol, Sistan va Baluchestan Prov., April 12, IRNA—A 1.1 billion rial (dls. 16 million) check of Imam Khomeyni for the flood stricken people of this province was given to its governor general here Tuesday night.

The money to be used for construction of houses for those rendered homeless as a result of the recent floods, was presented by Chief Justice Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili who was appointed by the imam to supervise the operations.

According to Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili in addition to the above sum, 900 million rials (dls. 13 million) from revenues of the customs department of the province from sale of undeclared goods will also be allocated for this purpose.

The chief justice said Imam Khomeyni has stressed immediate investigation into the degree of the damage caused and assisting the victims. He also urged the local officials to speed up the relief operations.

Zabol deputy in the Majlis, Shahraki, praising the special attention of the imam said the flood has caused an estimated 10 billion rials (dls. 150 million) of damage to the agricultural crop and properties of the inhabitants. He added that 100 villages have been totally demolished.

Another local official said the flood has left 25,000 people homeless damaging some 20,000 hectares of farmland.

Meanwhile the Agricultural Bank will provide two billion rials (dls. 30 million) of interest-free loan to the flood stricken farmers and live-stock breeders of the province. The agreement is made through the efforts of the Prime Minister's Office.

A representative of the office in the province said Tuesday that the government in addition to delivery of 100 million rials (dls. 1.3 million) in cash to the headquarters in charge of the relief operations, has also in cooperation with the Red Crescent Society provided 250 million rials (dls. 3.5 million) worth of necessary goods and articles to the victims. Every day two plane loads of goods and foodstuffs are delivered to the victims, he added.

Meanwhile, some 150,000 tons of fodder will shortly be distributed among live-stock breeders in the region free of charges shortly.

Nepal

Indian Allegation on PRC Missile Denied

BK0904104289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1029 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Kathmandu, April 9 (AFP)—A high-ranking Foreign Ministry source has denied India's charge that Nepal imported ground-to-air missiles from China.

Kathmandu's alleged purchase of the missiles is said to be a motive for an Indian trade blockade imposed three weeks ago which has caused much hardship across Nepal.

The official said Nepal received a shipment of other Chinese weapons last summer against a one-time order placed two years earlier.

The delivery included anti-aircraft guns which Nepal ordered from China after India failed to answer a request to supply them in 1973, the official said.

"None of the arms pose a threat to the national security of India.... the Chinese arms are merely to safeguard our national sovereignty and the Nepalese people from terrorists," he said. "India the southern giant has mingled politics with trade and transit in an apparent bid to cow down Nepal," he said.

The official said Nepal could assure India it would import no more Chinese arms, but could not say so publicly or officially. Such a statement would be "tantamount to surrendering of our national sovereignty to India," he said.

On Saturday, Nepal's chief government spokesman said the arms procured from China "are defensive in nature and limited in quantity."

"These arms cannot be said to pose even the smallest threat to India," the spokesman, Radhe Shyam Bista, said.

Nepal had imported the bulk of its arms from India.

Indian weapons in the Nepalese armory are worth 500 million Nepalese rupees (19 million dollars) [currency not further specified] while the Chinese arms shipment cost 50 million rupees (1.9 million dollars), the Foreign Ministry source said.

Indian trade restrictions imposed March 23 ban the shipment of essential imports including salt, baby food, medicine and petroleum products purchased by Nepal from outside India.

India has permitted the transport of other goods from markets outside India only through Raxaul and Jogbani, two of the 13 entry points along the 1040-kilometer (650 mile) Indo-Nepalese border.

Nepalese officials have called the trade restrictions "tantamount to an economic blockade."

Foreign Minister on Ending Special Tie With India

BK1104163689 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Excerpt] The foreign minister of Nepal, Mr Sailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, has said that his country wants to end its special relationship with India. In an interview to THE NEW YORK TIMES, he has said that the present relationship has become one of economic dependence and it is in Nepal's interest to let interdependence grow. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on Trade, Transit Treaty

Tariff Cuts To Boost Imports

BK1204065089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0630 GMT 12 Apr 89

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, April 12 (AFP)—The Nepalese Government has responded to a New Delhi trade blockade by announcing cuts in duties on several categories of imports from countries other than India.

A Finance Ministry spokesman said Tuesday that Nepal had also decided to impose additional customs duties on some Indian goods.

The spokesman said Tuesday that under the new tariff policy, additional import duties on several products from third markets would be cut by between 10 percent and 60 percent. The move was apparently aimed at encouraging imports from countries other than India, which on March 23 withdrew trade and transit concessions given to Nepal.

The concessions were withdrawn on the expiration of bilateral treaties governing trade and transit amid conflicting stances on what the new arrangements should be.

The increased duties on some Indian goods would bring their cost into line with with similar products bought from other markets such as Western Europe, the United States, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore and Canada.

The spokesman said Nepal had adopted this "drastic" policy in view of India's trade blockade in the past three weeks, which has led to shortages of medicines and baby food, other essential items and petroleum products.

The government has also cut excise duties on Nepalese exports to one percent from earlier rates of between 1.5 percent and five percent.

Additional duties of 35 percent on the imports of cotton cloth have been waived and these goods will now be subject only to a tariff of 15 percent.

Nepal has also removed all additional customs duties on coffee, powdered milk, tobacco, tea, finished iron goods, pipes and fittings, baby food, tyres, cotton blankets, chemicals, leather shoes, tractors, buses, trucks and all rickshaws, the ministry spokesman said.

The additional duties on these goods from third countries ranged from between 10 percent and 35 percent, he added.

The spokesman said additional duties of between 10 and 25 percent would be levied on imports from India of goods such as glucose, machinery, paint, blankets, umbrellas, torches, batteries, insecticides, agricultural tools, motor parts, glassware, shoes, videocassettes, cosmetics, motorcycles and toys.

These goods were subject to basic customs duties of between five and thirty-five percent.

The spokesman said imports of these goods from markets other than India had been subject to additional tariffs, but added that these would now be cut by 15 to 35 percent to make goods from the European Economic Community, the United States, Canada, China and elsewhere more competitive with Indian exports.

Additional duties on synthetic cloths and readymade clothes from markets other than India have been cut by 60 percent, while New Delhi must now pay an extra 40 percent on these products.

The spokesman said additional duties on Indian television sets, guns, refrigerators and vehicles would be raised from 49.5 percent to 55 percent, on top of basic customs duties of 70 to 100 percent.

Imposition of additional customs duties by Nepal on Indian goods and the introduction of work permits for an estimated 150,000 Indians resident in Nepal had already cast a shadow over bilateral relations.

New Delhi was also angered over Kathmandu's purchase of arms last year from China, which fought a brief war with India in 1962.

Kathmandu had said it was willing to waive the additional duties after the signing of a new trade and transit treaty, the ministry spokesman said.

India has insisted on a unified trade and transit treaty to replace the lapsed agreements, while Nepal believes the two issues should be governed by separate pacts.

Bangladesh To Send Supplies

BK1204113689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1058 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Dhaka, April 12 (AFP)—Bangladesh plans to send fuel and sugar to Nepal through the only two Indo-Nepalese border posts still open following a dispute between New Delhi and Kathmandu, officials said Wednesday.

Nepal has been hit by shortages as a result of the trade stalemate with India following the expiration on March 23 of trade and transit treaties between the two countries.

An official said 1,000 tonnes of diesel and an equal amount of kerosene and 4,000 tonnes of sugar offered to Kathmandu by Dhaka last week would be shipped to the eastern Indian port of Calcutta for transportation to landlocked Nepal.

The Trading Corporation of Bangladesh official said that arrangements were being made to ship an initial 2,500 tonnes of sugar to Calcutta in consultation with Nepalese authorities. The Nepalese Government would arrange to take the sugar to Kathmandu, he said.

Another official, from the state-owned Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, said that diesel and kerosene meant for Nepal were stored in Bangladesh's southeastern port city of Chittagong and were ready for shipment to Calcutta.

Newspaper reports here said that from Calcutta the fuel and sugar were expected to be sent by train to Nepal through Raksul and Jugbani, the two border posts still open on the Indo-Nepal border.

India closed down 13 of the 15 border entry points following the expiration of the treaties.

An Indian High Commission (embassy) spokesman on Tuesday denied as "totally incorrect" news reports that the stalemate between India and Nepal over trade and transit was affecting Bangladesh's trade with Nepal.

India Gains More From Trade

BK0804102589 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 2 Apr 89 p 1

[Text] Kathmandu, April 1 (RSS) [RASHTRIYA SAMACHAR SAMITI]: Indian manufacturers used to sell their products in Nepal after paying concessional customs tariff as provided for in the recently expired trade treaties between Nepal and India, and the tariffs are still concessional for the Indian products even after the expiry of the treaties.

However, India has started imposing at least 145 percent customs duty on Nepal's exports to that country leasing to virtual stoppage in the export of Nepalese products to India as these products can no longer compete with Indian goods in the Indian market.

Innumberable Indian goods have been enjoying concessional customs facility in Nepal as compared to the goods imported from overseas since many years ago. But the Nepalese goods do not enjoy such facility in India.

In principle, Nepal was also entitled to export sixty-six Nepalese products to India with concessional customs duty as provided for in the treaty provided that at least 80 percent of the raw material used in such goods was Nepalese or Indian.

However, Nepal has not been able to sell Nepalese industrial products in a substantial quantity in India as the procedures to get approval for the same was highly time consuming.

Therefore, a limited quantity of jute goods, biscuits, oils and noodles was exported to India.

Under the treaty, both Nepal and India charged no customs duty on the trade of food items and livestock. But in the trade of primary goods they used to impose a nominal duty of 5 percent.

According to an official source, the average rate of customs duty on Indian goods in Nepal is 18 (eighteen) percent whereas, the goods like polyester fabrics imported from third countries carry a customs duty of up to 243 (two hundred forty-three) percent.

The treaty also provided for return of the excise duty charged on the goods exported to Nepal. This arrangement was made to ensure that the Indian goods once entering into Nepal were not re-exported to India. The amount of the excise refund was Rs.100 million every year for the period of the treaty.

The above facts show that India was gaining greater benefits than Nepal from the bilateral trade.

There were no quantitative restrictions on the trade between the two countries. Likewise, there was no restriction on the exchange of Indian currency. This also provided more benefits to India.

Pakistan

Bhutto Comments on Afghanistan, Nuclear Policy

BK1204064389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has said that her government is committed to rebuild the country and improve the quality of life of the people. In an interview with a prominent FRG news magazine, she said that we would achieve most of our objectives within 5 years time. The prime minister said that we have improved the investment climate for investors and efforts are being made to give more sectors under state undertakings to the private sector.

The prime minister said her government believes in the Islamic values of equality, human rights, and freedom. She added that her government is an Islamic government because the people have elected it. This government has come to power with God's blessings and the people's wishes.

Referring to the Afghan problem, she said that Pakistan favors a strong and stable government in Afghanistan. She said if peace and stability are restored there, Pakistan will be free from threats from a troubled neighboring country.

On the nuclear issue, she said Pakistan does not want to carry out a nuclear test. She added that we desire nuclear nonproliferation and my government's aim is to create a nuclear weapons free zone [in South Asia].

Support Sought for Court of Justice Candidate

BK0904091589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan has arrived in New Delhi as a special envoy of the prime minister where he will try to secure India's support for Pakistan's candidate in the election for a position on the International Court of Justice [ICJ]. The interior minister was received by External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao at the airport. Aitzaz Ahsan will meet Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi tomorrow and give a message from Ms Benazir Bhutto. He will also meet other Indian leaders and exchange views on bilateral matters.

Yahya Bakhtiar, the attorney general of Pakistan, has had talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze in Moscow. He conveyed a message from the prime minister to the Soviet premier. Radio Moscow reported that issues relating to the ICJ and Afghanistan were discussed during the meeting with Shevardnadze.

Iqbal Akhund, the special Pakistani envoy currently visiting Malaysia, met with Malaysian Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar in Kuala Lumpur. The Malaysian foreign minister said his country will support Pakistan's rejoining the Commonwealth. He said that Malaysia, as host of the October meeting of the Commonwealth heads of government, expressed his pleasure in welcoming Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto. In addition to matters of mutual interest, they also exchanged views on the vacant ICJ position for which Pakistan is a candidate.

China To Cooperate in Geo-Exploration, Mining

BK0704165289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] China has expressed its readiness to cooperate with Pakistan in the field of geo-exploration and mineral evaluation. This was stated by the Chinese Vice Minister for Geology and Minerals Mr Xia Guozhi on his arrival in Quetta this afternoon as the head of a five-member delegation. He said besides cooperation in Lakrah and Digari coal exploration projects, China is cooperating with Pakistan in other mining schemes.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Rejects Unilateral Cease-Fire

BK1104153889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1534 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Madras, India, April 11 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan rebel group the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on Tuesday rejected a unilateral ceasefire announced by Colombo.

The LTTE, the most powerful of the Tamil militant groups, declared that it would continue the fight for an independent Tamil Eelam (state).

The policy-making Political Committee of the LTTE said in a press statement that the week-long ceasefire to begin Wednesday declared by the government of President Ranasinghe Premadasa in Colombo on Monday without consulting the rebels, was only a ruse to make them lay down arms.

"As long as the Indian Peace-Keeping Force remained in Sri Lanka and the government in Colombo refused to recognize the two-nation theory, the LTTE will continue its struggle for independence," the statement said.

Colombo announced Monday that Indian and Sri Lankan forces would suspend operations against the rebels for a week beginning at 6:00 a.m. (0030 GMT) Wednesday to allow them to give themselves up.

"We are offering this peace appeal because we do not want to go on killing... this is a genuine effort on our part," Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said in Colombo.

An official spokesman in New Delhi said Tuesday the Indian Government was still considering a request by Colombo that Indian Peace-Keeping (IPK) troops on the island observe the ceasefire.

The LTTE statement was originally made in Jaffna, in Sri Lanka's north, but a copy of it was made available to the press here.

It said if that if the twin demands were fulfilled "there is neither the need for a ceasefire or an armed struggle."

"In our view, it is only a ruse to make us surrender arms. We are not going to oblige," the statement said.

All the major Sri Lankan separatist Tamil groups, including the LTTE, have their offices in Madras, which is the capital of predominantly Tamil southern Indian State of Tamil Nadu.

In an open letter to Mr. Premadasa, also released to the press here, the LTTE reminded him of his poll promise that if he was elected to the presidency he would ask all the Indian forces to return home.

The Indian troops launched an offensive in October 1987 to disarm the LTTE, led by Velupillai Prabhakaran, after it repudiated the Indo-Sri Lanka peace pact signed earlier that year and refused to lay weapons.

IPKF Not Observing Cease-Fire

BK1204090289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0847 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Colombo, April 12 (AFP)—A Sri Lankan Government declared ceasefire ran into trouble on its first day Wednesday with India saying its troops on the island republic would continue their operations against Tamil guerrillas.

Local troops were confined to barracks as they suspended cordon and search missions against the Sinhalese rebel group, the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) from early Wednesday, military officials said.

Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne announced Monday that both Indian forces in the island's Tamil-populated north and east and local forces elsewhere will observe the truce intended to persuade anti-government militants to surrender.

Mr. Wijertane who is also the junior defence minister told reporters here Monday that Indian commanders agreed to observe the unilateral ceasefire "in spite of the fact that some important (IPKF) [Indian Peacekeeping Force] operations are going on."

The dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), battling up to 50,000 Indian soldiers in the northeast, rejected the peace offer Tuesday describing it as a ruse to get them to surrender arms.

("With the LTTE rejecting the ceasefire, what is left of it," an Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman asked in New Delhi Wednesday.

(The spokesman told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in New Delhi that Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) operations to disarm the LTTE would not be stopped during the week-long truce announced by Colombo.)

Political analysts here saw the remark as New Delhi's rejection of Colombo's request for a ceasefire, but Indian officials here have not given a definitive statement on India's position on the truce.

India's acting high commissioner here, Cherry George, refused to discuss whether the IPKF would continue its offensive operations against the LTTE saying: "We don't want to get into a public debate on that."

There was no immediate response from Sri Lankan authorities Wednesday. But officials said Foreign Ministry Secretary Bernard Tilakaratna left for New Delhi Wednesday on an unscheduled visit for talks with Indian officials.

Sri Lankan defence officials said they had no immediate reports of truce violations in the island's south where the JVP is active and in the northeast where Indian troops are responsible for maintaining law and order.

The truce which comes two days before the Sinhalese and Tamil new year is part of President Ranasinghe Premadasa's peace package to JVP and LTTE activists to give up violence and join politics.

The package, which included a general amnesty to all militants who gave themselves up and representation in Parliament, was aimed at ending continuing political killings in the island republic which have left more than 5,500 dead since July 1987.

The government had set up 228 centres ma
prominent citizens and religious leaders for manned by
surrender and join voluntary rehabilitation. ilitants to

Spokesmen for a few centres in Colombo and in
Galle District, a hot bed of JVP activity, said n southern
turned up since they opened early Wednesday o one had

Mr. Wijeratne had said the government was m
peace offer "because we do not want to go on aking the
killing."

"This is a genuine effort on our part (to end
We cannot discard the youths of our country,' violence).
' he said.

Both the JVP and the LTTE are opposed, for
reasons, to the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka pea different
which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist ce accord
led by the LTTE. campaign

India has lost more than 725 troops since
troops in Sri Lanka in line with the peace pac eploying
JVP has continued a violent anti-government and the
in a bid to seize power. campaign

In 1971, a JVP-led insurrection was put dow
government with the loss of at least 10,000 liv n by the
es.

97 Surrender

BK1204102489 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0955 GMT 12 Apr 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Apr 12 (LANKAPUVATH)—No incidents were reported since the islandwide suspension of offensive operations by Sri Lankan security forces and the Indian Peacekeeping Force came into effect at 0600 hours (local time) today, official sources told LANKAPUVATH.

One more youth engaged in subversive activities had given himself up, in the Uva Province district of Moneragala.

Ninety-seven youth have given themselves up to the authorities, since President Ranasinghe Premadasa's call to misguided youth engaged in violence to lay down their arms and enter the democratic process.

All those giving themselves up are being accommodated in 228 civilian manned reception centres.

The current cessation of offensive operations continues for a period of one week—until 0600 hours (local time) on April 19.

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